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Turkey plans to close Bosphorus Straits

ANKARA (AP) — Turkey told Russia Monday that its straits cannot indefinitely handle the heavy volume of oil tanker traffic and that a new method of shipment should be negotiated. The Anatolia news agency said Prime Minister Tansu Ciller summoned Russian Ambassador Albert Chernishev to discuss the issue. Volkan Vural, Ms. Ciller's foreign affairs advisor, said the prime minister told Mr. Chernishev the situation in the waterways had changed since the signing of the 1936 Montreux Convention that gave Turkey control of traffic through the Bosphorus and the Dardanelles. Turkey is concerned about the danger to Istanbul from the number of tankers shipping the volatile cargo through the straits. Ms. Ciller told the ambassador Turkey favoured shipping Russian, Central Asian or Caucasian oil through pipelines, but wanted to negotiate a settlement.

U.N. team arrives in Baghdad

BAGHDAD (R) — A U.N. team arrived in Baghdad on Monday to conduct technical talks with Iraqi authorities, days after United Nations inspectors installed cameras at two missile test sites. "It is standard practice that we meet upon arrival with the Iraqi government," team leader Nikita Smidovich, a veteran U.N. inspector, told reporters. "We are here to have technical discussion with the Iraqi government," the Russian added, but gave no further details. Asked if he would be carrying out any inspections, he replied: "We would have to first meet with Iraqi officials before we could consider any inspections." The 10-man team will stay about a week to conduct technical talks with the Iraqi authorities before returning to Bahrain, field headquarters of U.N. teams visiting Iraq. U.N. officials said, U.N. inspectors last week installed six monitoring cameras at the Al Rafah and Al Yawm Al Ajam test sites close to Baghdad and praised Iraq for its cooperation. But in line with a U.N.-Iraq interim agreement in July, the cameras were switched off pending the outcome of technical talks between them.

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King congratulates Belgian monarch

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Monday sent a cable to King Albert II of Belgium congratulating him on his accession to the throne. King Hussein wished King Albert success in carrying out his duties and the Belgian people further progress and prosperity. King Albert took the oath Monday to succeed his brother King Baudouin, who died a week ago of a heart attack while on holiday in Spain. (See page 10)

NATO reaches accord on bombing Serbs

BRUSSELS (AFP) — The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) agreed Monday on a phased programme of air strikes of Serbian positions in Bosnia-Herzegovina, diplomats said here. Speaking during a meeting of the North Atlantic Council, they predicted that the final green light for an expanded mandate to launch the air strikes could be given later this week. The council comprises ambassadors from NATO's 16 member states. A diplomat said the meeting had approved a list of strike options drawn up by the alliance's military committee at the weekend, and would now pass it on to the United Nations for endorsement. (See related story on page 8).

Hundreds continue to flee south Sudan

NAIROBI (AP) — New fighting in southern Sudan has caused the biggest exodus from the country in more than a year, a U.N. refugee official said Monday. An estimated 25,000 fleeing Sudanese are being housed temporarily in transit camps in Uganda and more are pouring over the border daily, said Panos Mountain of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees, office in Kenya. Ugandan officials said last week that the flight of people began Thursday following a heavy Sudanese government aerial bombardment of positions of the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA). But rebels said the bombing started nearly two weeks ago. (See related story on page 10).

WJC demands Demjanjuk retrial

TEL AVIV (AP) — Pressure mounted in Israel Monday to keep John Demjanjuk in prison and try him on new Nazi war crimes charges, leading his attorney to complain of "public hysteria." The World Jewish Congress (WJC), an umbrella group for 80 Jewish communities around the world, on Monday appealed to the supreme court demanding a new trial for the retired Ohio auto worker. The Yad Vashem memorial issued a statement Monday saying it would be an "insufferable miscarriage of justice" if Demjanjuk, 73, was released. (See related story on page 2).

Turkish journalist found dead

ANKARA (AP) — A 19-year-old reporter for a pro-Kurdish leftist daily was found murdered in southeastern Turkey, officials said Monday. Ferhat Tepe, a correspondent for the daily Ozgur Gundem, was strangled near the town of Sivrice in Elazig province. He became the sixth reporter of the newspaper to be killed since the paper went into publication in May 1992, when Mr. Tepe joined the daily for his first job. Police found his body last week but failed to identify it. The body was exhumed and identified by family members after they went to the police, a reporter for the newspaper said. Mr. Tepe had been reported missing two weeks ago. A previously unknown underground organisation calling itself the "Turkish Ottoman Revenge Brigade" claimed responsibility for the abduction of Mr. Tepe in a telephone call to his family. Fourteen journalists have been killed in southeastern Turkey since February 1992. Most of them worked for leftist and pro-Kurdish publications in the Kurdish-dominated southeastern region, where a guerrilla war between Kurdish separatists and security forces has been going on for the past nine years.

Palestinian delegates 'retract resignations'

Focus said shifting to direct PLO participation in Mideast peace talks

Combined agency dispatches

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM — Three top Palestinian peace negotiators renege on plans to quit Monday, after Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) officials refused to accept their resignations in Tunis, a negotiations adviser said.

The negotiators and the PLO were discussing the possibility of demanding instead that the PLO become a direct participant in U.S.-brokered Mideast peace talks, adviser Azmi Shuabi said in a telephone interview with the Associated Press.

Israel formally boycotts the PLO, and the United States has also agreed to distance high officials of the organisation from the talks in Washington.

Mr. Shuabi said that overall, Palestinian delegation leader Faisal Hussein, spokesperson Hanan Ashrawi and delegate Saeb Erekat had submitted resignation letters at PLO headquarters in Tunis where they flew Sunday.

After officials refused to accept the resignations, they began "discussing ways to solve the problems of decision-making," in the PLO, Mr. Shuabi said. Haidar Abdul Shafi of the Palestinian delegation to bilateral peace talks with Israel confirmed in Amman that the three had handed in resignation letters, but he did not say whether they were accepted.

Other members of the Palestinian negotiating team were expected to head for Tunis Tuesday to join the discussions, Shuabi said.

Mr. Hussein, Dr. Ashrawi and Mr. Erekat wanted to step down over a dispute involving PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat about a document drafted by the PLO and submitted to Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

The three criticised the paper for softening Palestinian demands from Israel, including the status of sovereignty over Jerusalem. The negotiating team persuaded the PLO to approve five changes of substance to the document.

Most of the changes, handwritten on an English text of the document made available to the Jordan Times Sunday, are attempts to close loopholes which Israel might have used to erode the Palestinian negotiating position.

The main changes are: — Where the original said "once negotiations, on permanent status begin, each side can raise whatever issue it wants," the final version says "in negotiations each side can raise whatever issue it wants." This change preempts attempts to exclude some issues from the agenda for talks on interim self-rule.

— The sentence "the agenda for the permanent status negotiations should include the final status of Jerusalem" has been changed to read "must include ...," making it obligatory rather than advisable to discuss Jerusalem.

Where the original said "it (the period of self-rule) should also put an end to the confrontation between Israelis and Palestinians," the final version says "it should also pave the way to put an end to the confrontation between Israelis and Palestinians." This change avoids giving the impression that the Palestinian revolt would necessarily end when self-rule begins.

— In a passage defining the borders of the self-rule region, the final version uses the expression "these territories" in place of "the territories," reinforcing the link with a reference to all Palestinian territory occupied in 1967.

— The final version drops the word "option" when referring to the idea of Israel withdrawing first from the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho. However, the original text was reportedly handed over to Mr. Christopher one day before it reached the negotiators. It was given to the U.S. envoy by Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, who had received it from Mr. Arafat.

PLO sources said Mr. Arafat's decision to hand over the position paper to the U.S. violated a PLO Executive Committee decision on July 3 to neither deal with the U.S. draft nor present amendments to it. The Executive Committee had dismissed the draft as a ploy to change the basic rules

(Continued on page 10)



SUCCESSFUL VISIT: His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, who returned home from an official visit to Qatar Monday, is received upon arrival by His Majesty King Hussein and senior officials. The Jordanian ambassador to Qatar described the visit as highly positive and fruitful (see page 3)

Police chief executed in Rabat

RABAT (AFP) — A senior Moroccan police officer, Mustapha Tabet, was executed by firing squad at dawn Monday after being convicted of raping and torturing hundreds of women and girls, officials here said. Mr. Tabet, who had two wives and five children, was sentenced to death in March by a court in Casablanca, where he was in charge of the police intelligence service.

The Ministry of Justice here said Monday that Mr. Tabet's appeal to the supreme court and plea for clemency to King Hassan had been turned down.

After two women pressed charges against Mr. Tabet, police raided his flat and found 118 videotapes showing him raping and torturing more than 500 women and girls who had been filmed without their knowledge in his bed.

Eighteen women testified to the court how Mr. Tabet, 54, had used force, threats or bribery to subject them to what defence lawyers called "the most atrocious sexual torture."

All the attacks were filmed by two remote-controlled cameras which he kept hidden inside a bookcase facing the bed. Mr. Tabet had pleaded that all the women in the tapes had been consenting partners.

When the court viewed some of the videos during a night session in February, one defence lawyer passed out and had to be taken to hospital, press reports said.

The court also jailed Mr. Tabet's immediate superior, Divisional Commissioner Ahmad Ouachi, for life for covering up the crimes. Two other policemen working for the same regional intelligence service were sentenced to 10 and 20 years in jail respectively on the same charge.

The scandal led to the dismissal of the director general of the state intelligence service, Aziz Al Ouazzani, who was replaced by former Tanger Provincial Governor Ahmad Midaoui.

Mr. Midaoui, who was instructed by King Hassan to lead a wide-ranging inquiry into the ramifications of the scandal, recently dismissed or enforced early retirement on several high-ranking intelligence service officials.

One opposition party had earlier demanded the resignation of all involved in the affair.

Israel: No talks with PLO

Combined agency dispatches

TEL AVIV — Israel's government ruled out direct talks with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Monday and said it would keep negotiating with a Palestinian peace delegation from the occupied territories.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said a threat to resign by three top members of the Palestinian delegation did not mean Israel would talk to the PLO.

"It is a Palestinian problem," Mr. Rabin said Monday. "It is not our business what is the composition of the Palestinian delegation as long as it is composed of residents of the territories."

"Under the guidelines of the Madrid conference they can decide who are the members... as long as they are residents of the (occupied) territories," Mr. Rabin underlined. "All through the one and a half years (of peace talks) they have changed the membership."

However, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said he would not rule out the eventual participation of PLO officials on the Palestinian delegation.

"Everything in its time," Mr. Peres said when asked about the possibility on Israel Radio. "The time for this question is not

now." "Everything has its time. This question too has its time and it is not now. At this stage, there is a delegation we can negotiate with," he said. "We will follow this seriously, without cynicism, without gloating," Mr. Peres said. "We want to see a victory of the moderate side, the side that strives for peace."

The three top Palestinian negotiators — overall coordinator Faisal Al Hussein, spokesperson Hanan Ashrawi and deputy leader Saeb Erekat — are offering their resignations, peace negotiating team head Haidar Abdul Shafi said Sunday.

The row between the negotiators and the PLO prompted some Israeli ministers to renew calls for direct negotiations with the PLO because it appeared to be taking a more moderate stand than the delegation (see page 2).

However, Mr. Peres said the PLO was more hardline than the delegation on some issues and more conciliatory on others. Mr. Rabin's government has already ended a ban on private contacts with the PLO. Last week, Israeli Radio revealed that Environment Minister Yosi Sarid had held talks, with Mr. Rabin's knowledge, with Mr. Arafat's political advisor Nabil Shaath in

Cairo. "The policy of the Israeli government is to deal with residents of the (West Bank) and Gaza," said Israel's chief negotiator with Palestinians, Elyakim Rubinstein. He said Israel feared that talking to the PLO would immediately raise issues Israel wants to leave for a later stage, such as permanent status of the occupied territories, creation of a Palestinian state and the right of diaspora Palestinians to return.

An official close to Mr. Rabin said Monday the crisis in the Palestinian team showed it could not make decisions needed to reach agreement on limited self-rule for the Palestinians in the occupied territories.

"There is no cohesive partner which is capable of making decisions," the official said. "What we see now is a very vivid demonstration of that."

Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin, who has always favoured contact with the PLO, said it might now be considered.

"If it turns out we have nobody to talk to among residents of the (occupied) territories here, we will have to rethink very seriously this matter, perhaps including breaking taboos that have already been eroded anyway," he told Israel Radio.

U.N. forces beefed up in Somalia

Combined agency dispatches

MOGADISHU — A ship carrying 48 American armoured cars docked early Monday, and officials said the trucks would immediately go to work patrolling embattled streets where four American soldiers died Sunday.

Sunday's attack was the deadliest involving U.S. forces since they arrived in Somalia last year, and the third ambush on peacekeepers since Wednesday. The United Nations has vowed to seek out those responsible for the land mine that killed the four Americans returning from patrol in southern Mogadishu.

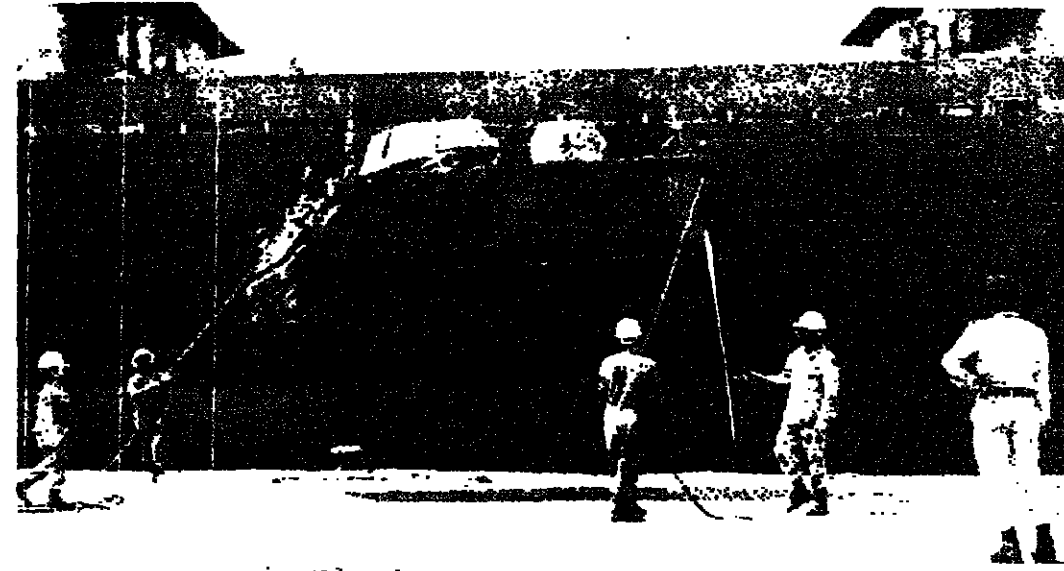
The chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff said Monday the American forces would pursue those responsible for the deaths. "Obviously we are interested in going after any of those responsible for the incident if we can find out who they are," Gen. Colin Powell told reporters.

Gen. Powell said he had no announcement of any new U.S. policy in Somalia to make but said security will be tightened by American forces.

"We will have to undertake more security operations," he added without elaborating. As darkness fell, the embattled capital was tense, U.N. forces reported several attacks on peacekeepers overnight, but said there were no casualties.

"These deaths will not have been in vain," U.N. special representative Jonathan Howe said Sunday. "We will actively defend against terrorism and vigorously pursue the perpetrators of these crimes."

Mr. Howe, a retired U.S. admiral, blamed the attack on warlord Mohammad Farrah Aided, who has eluded capture and controls the biggest militia in



A U.S. armoured personnel carrier, is towed to the quay at Mogadishu's port, one of 48 that joined the U.N. force in Somalia Monday (AFP photo)

the capital. Mr. Howe has ordered General Aided's arrest and put a \$25,000 reward on his head.

But Hussein Dimbil, a spokesman for Gen. Aided's Somali National Alliance (SNA), said Monday: "We were categorically not involved. We are ready to cooperate through dialogue, not bullets."

An SNA statement, released in Nairobi, warned retaliatory action by U.S. forces equipped with "the latest weaponry for mass massacres" would plunge Somalia into "full scale war."

"We categorically deny the accident of yesterday. We are not at all implicated in the accident," Mr. Dimbil told reporters in Mogadishu.

"We are sorry for what hap-

pened. This action is not by us. It is by people who are opposed to stability and want to widen differences between us and the United Nations," he added.

Sunday's attack was "a deliberate, cunning action" apparently carried out by promote control, a U.N. spokesman said in Mogadishu.

Spokesman David Stockwell told reporters that evidence collected so far suggested the explosion Sunday was caused not by a landmine but by a remote-control detonation.

"This adds a new dimension because now it's not just sniper fire or small arms that are endangering the ground traffic," he said.

"We do not underestimate Aided's militia," Maj. Stockwell

added. "They are very cunning and they know their business." Stockwell said gunmen using machine-guns, small arms fire and mortars fired at U.N. targets overnight but there were no casualties.

Shots were fired at Pakistani troops manning Mogadishu airport while small arms fire and six mortar shells were fired at the U.N. compound.

Mr. Howe said the attacks stemmed from a loss of support for Gen. Aided.

"This escalation, in our view, reflects Aided's frustration over his shrinking support base in Mogadishu and the rest of Somalia. Aided's isolation apparently translates into desperate acts of terrorism," he said.



Villagers celebrate the arrival Monday of Lebanese army troops in the village of Qana in South Lebanon (AFP photo)

Lebanese civilians jubilant as army deploys in south

Combined agency dispatches

TYRE — Lebanese troops moved into the devastated villages of the south of the country Monday to the relief of local residents, but their commanders denied they were there to clamp down on guerrilla attacks against occupying Israeli forces.

It was the biggest national army deployment in the region since the first Israeli invasion of 1978, and the sight of Lebanese troops, decked out in camouflage and black berets, brought tears of joy to the eyes of hundreds of local residents who lined the streets to welcome them.

In Beirut, the military command issued a statement stressing that the troops' presence did not mean Iranian-backed Hizbollah guerrillas would be prevented from attacking occupying Israeli forces and their proxy South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia in Israel's self-declared "security zone" to the south.

The Lebanese forces took up positions in Hizbollah strongholds near the "security zone," alongside soldiers of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) from Fiji, Ghana and Finland.

The move came 10 days after Israeli strikes against guerrilla positions in South Lebanon killed 147 people, wounded 496 and displaced half a million civilians. The week of air, sea and artillery strikes ended July 31 with a ceasefire brokered by the United States.

The Lebanese deployment covered positions within 15 kilometres of Israeli troops.

Security sources said the army presence would definitely curtail guerrilla operations against the "security zone." But they added that the guerrillas could simply find new avenues of attack.

Thousands of villagers in the UNIFIL area poured out of their shell-shattered homes to greet the troops arriving in armoured personnel carriers, trucks and jeeps.

The soldiers took up positions in the villages of Qana, Dirdghaya, Jouaya and Bir Al Salas, all UNIFIL areas.

"Welcome welcome, our valiant army," shouted vegetable seller through a loudspeaker mounted on his truck. Others greeted the troop by showering them with rice and almonds in a traditional Lebanese welcome.

"You should have come here long ago," said Mariam Saad, a

55-year-old housewife, as the troops reached Jouaya, which was among the main targets of Israel's air raids last month.

But in the village of Shabiyeh, just east of Jouaya, sympathisers of Hizbollah watched passively as the troops rumbled through the narrow streets. One banner in the village said, "the main legacy is to preserve the Islamic resistance."

The contrast reflected the split in the population. The majority wants the army to curb guerrilla activity to guard against devastating Israeli reprisals, while diehard Hizbollah sympathisers want to continue resistance.

"We know it's symbolic but it's an important step," said driver Qassem Fawaz, 53, in Jouaya as soldiers set up a post. We wish it happened a long time ago so our hearts could rest."

In Beirut, the army said the deployment was to back "the steadfastness of the people of the south facing Israeli aggression and to stop any security incidents in the villages."

"The command has clarified ... there is no truth to any news

(Continued on page 10)

Deployment excludes critical areas, page 2

Hizbollah says it will continue fight despite setback

By Antoine Jacob
Agence France Presse

SOHOMOR, Lebanon — Abu Mohammad is defiant behind his black beard, vowing to continue fighting Israel until it withdraws from territories it occupies.

"I trained as an electrician and a plumber, but my real trade is the Islamic resistance. And nothing will change until the liberation of all the Arab territory occupied by Israel."

Abu Mohammad is a Hizbollah fighter, trained in Iran. He says the recent massive bombardment of Lebanon by Israel, which was aimed at neutralising groups like the Iranian-backed Hizbollah, has only strengthened the resolve of his fellow fighters.

"The resistance is stronger and more confident than ever," he says.

Hizbollah is a shadowy organisation. Its 5,000 to 10,000 "soldiers" blend in with the population of southern Lebanon, living in villages and towns next to Israel's self-declared "security zone" in the extreme south of the country.

For a visitor, it is impossible to tell the ordinary residents of southern Lebanon from the Hizbollah fighters. At first, nobody admits to being a member of the Party of God, funded by Iran and aided by Syria, which has 35,000 troops in Lebanon.

In the end, residents in these close-knit communities reveal they do know.

Abu Mohammad agreed to an interview in this village near Israel's self-declared "security zone."

He says the recent tightening of security by Lebanese authorities and the deployment of Lebanese troops in Hizbollah strongholds will not affect the functioning of the guerrilla organisation.

"In fact, the army warns us before putting up barricades so our men don't get caught."

Lebanese authorities have mounted roadblocks on routes leading to South Lebanon since the Israelis stopped the bombardment on July 31, confiscating weapons and making 12 arrests, according to security sources.

In Yohmor, further south, the head of a small Hizbollah unit explains that "now, when we want to launch an operation, we use dirt tracks" to get around.

He adds that Hizbollah leaders have given them instructions not to walk around with their weapons on display. But the message has not always gotten through: In Sohmor, soldiers confiscated guns and walkie-talkies from three Hizbollah members and then bundled the guerrillas away when they protested, according to a witness.

Abu Mohammad says the Lebanese action has even improved things for the guerrillas as they now "have to use tracks and roads that are less likely to be spotted by Israeli agents."

Beirut says it will not try to disarm Hizbollah, which it recognises as a resistance movement, until Israel moves out of its "security zone."

"Even though Hizbollah is less well equipped than the army, the people put their faith in it to free the land," Abu Mohammad says.

Ministers say Israel should talk to PLO

TEL AVIV (AP) — An Israeli cabinet minister Sunday called for direct talks between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) following reports that the leaders of the Palestinian peace negotiating team planned to submit their resignations.

The reports come amid Israeli criticism of the discord among Palestinian peace negotiators. Some Israeli leaders used the opportunity Sunday to urge the Palestinians to get organised.

"Before talking as a delegation, it's best they will crystallise their views, will decide what exactly they want and then maybe there will be room to sit and talk with them," said Housing Minister Benjamin Ben-Eliezer.

Palestinian delegates headed for the PLO headquarters in Tunisia to discuss the internal dispute. Local Palestinian leaders feel PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat is being more compromising

than they would like, Israel and army radios reported.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin last week complained in a closed-door meeting of Labour Party leaders that it was difficult to negotiate with the Palestinian side because the delegation was "unstable and splintered."

But Mr. Rabin's government itself is split over whether to talk directly to the PLO, whom they officially consider a "terrorist" organisation bent on destroying the Jewish state.

Mr. Rabin opposes open negotiations with the PLO, fearing it would raise the stakes for Israel. But a growing majority in his centre-left cabinet backs such talks as the only way to reach an agreement with the Palestinians.

Yossi Sarid, the environment minister from the dovish Meretz party, said the Israel sooner or later Israel will have to meet face

to face with the PLO.

"We have to talk directly with the leadership of the PLO in Tunisia because it is ridiculous to negotiate with representatives," Mr. Sarid said on Israel Television.

"I have never said that we could reach with certainty an agreement with the PLO leadership, but the opposite I can say: Without the PLO leadership in Tunis there is no chance to reach an agreement," Mr. Sarid said.

Mr. Sarid caused a stir last week when reports surfaced he met secretly with one of Mr. Arafat's top advisers to try to break the deadlock in the Middle East talks. He refused to confirm or deny the report, which also said he later briefed Mr. Rabin.

Cabinet Secretary Elyakim Rubinstein, who also leads

Israel's negotiations with the Palestinians, said it was more important what you spoke about than with whom.

Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin, speaking on Israel Radio Sunday, did not rule out direct PLO-Israel talks if the local Palestinian delegation was no longer able to function.

"I don't rule out theoretically such a thing," he said. "If in the end we have nobody to speak to, among residents in the (occupied) territories, we will have to move to a serious rethinking about this subject, including breaking taboos."

But political commentator Dani Rubinstein told Israel Television that direct talks with the PLO would not necessarily bear agreements.

"It's a lot easier to talk with the master of the house. But it doesn't mean that the problems will be solved," he said.

Iraqi Kurds kill Iranian, capture four

ANKARA (Agencies) — Iraqi Kurdish guerrillas killed an Iranian soldier and captured four during an Iranian incursion against opposition exiles in northern Iraq two weeks ago, a Kurdish spokesman said Monday.

Saeef Dizayee, Ankara representative of the Kurdish Democratic Party, told Reuters Iranian forces pushed six kilometres into Iraq and had tried to set up a base near Chwarta, town of northeast of Sulaimaniyah.

The target of the attacks was the exile Democratic Party of Iranian Kurdistan (PDKI). Iran acknowledged for the first time on Sunday that its forces have pursued "counter-revolutionaries" and "bandits" into northern Iraq.

The Iraqi government in Baghdad lost control of Iraqi Kurdistan after the 1991 Gulf war. Mr. Dizayee said Iranian exiles had been based there for about a year.

"The PDKI has not posed any threat to the Iraqis," he said. "It has not embarked on cross-border activities... it does not have the military power to operate against Iran."

Mr. Dizayee said the PDKI had told Iraqi Kurdish leaders it was ready to move away from border areas "if it became a burden."

"It seems the PDKI understands our situation much better than the PKK does," Mr. Dizayee added, referring to the Kurdish Labour Party, which

used bases in Iraqi border areas for attacks into Turkey until Iraqi Kurds joined forces with Turkey last year to drive them out.

He said Iranian artillery has been shelling across the border since the ground attack, driving some 2,000 civilians from their homes.

Iran said Sunday it could face a new wave of Shi'ite refugees fleeing Iraqi bombardment of marshlands in southern Iraq.

"If international organisations do not take steps to check the flow of refugees, Iran will face new problems," the head of Iran's immigration department, Ahmad Hosseini, said.

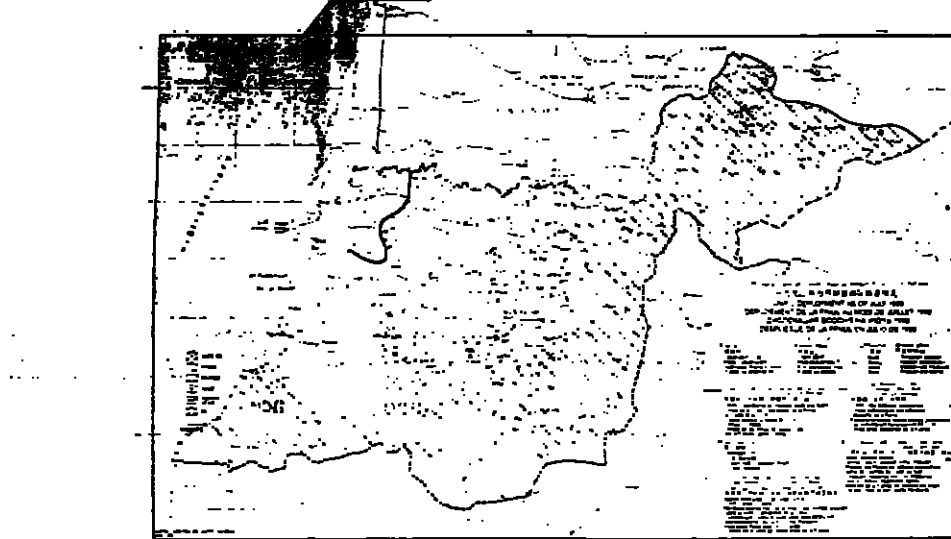
He said as many as 15,000 Iraqis were living in "desperate conditions" in southern Iraq and

could cross the border into Iran and could cross the border into Iran within weeks.

Mr. Hussein said 4,500 of the refugees who fled to Iran in recent weeks had been settled in camps in Khuzestan province, and that the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees had been extending aid to them.

On Wednesday a British member of parliament just back from southern Iraq called for an "international response" to what he said were Iraqi attempts to wipe out Shiites in the southern marshes.

Conservative MP Emma Nicholson said southern Iraq "has been totally wrecked with deliberate Iraqi drainage of the marshes."



Lebanese troops deploy away from critical zones in the south

From Michael Jansen

TEN DAYS after Israel proclaimed its unilateral ceasefire in southern Lebanon, 400 to 500 troops of the Lebanese army deployed in the United Nations buffer area above Israel's occupation zone along the Lebanese frontier.

The troops crossed into the area of operations of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) at eight in the morning and moved into four permanent positions established at the centre of the area in the villages of Qana, Jwayya, Bir Al Sanasil and Bir Gatta. Their positions were separate from those established by the various United Nations contingents. An agreement on this deployment was concluded between United Nations Secretary General Boutros Ghali and Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Al Hariri on Aug. 1 and the modalities were worked out last week in Beirut by the Lebanese foreign minis-

ter and the UNIFIL commander.

The task of the Lebanese army is to impose law and order and establish the sovereign presence of the Beirut government in this area, from which the Lebanese army has been excluded since 1978. Mr. Hariri has made it clear in repeated statements to the press since the ceasefire that the army would not "protect" Israel's forces and those of its surrogate, South Lebanon Army (SLA) in the occupation zone from attacks by the Lebanese resistance led by the Hizbollah movement.

Indeed, Mr. Hariri stated that resistance was "legitimate" as long as Israel continued to occupy Lebanese territory in violation of Security Council Resolution 425, which calls upon Israel to "immediately" withdraw from "all" Lebanese territory.

Captain Michael Lindvall, UNIFIL's acting spokesman, said that last week the army's operations in the area above

the Litani River which is the northern frontier of the UNIFIL zone included only "token" disarmament of Hizbollah militiamen who circled freely in and above the UNIFIL area. Since the ceasefire, he said, Hizbollah had carried out one attack from the UNIFIL area against three South Lebanon Army (SLA) posts in the occupation zone, firing about 30 artillery and mortar rounds at these positions. The same number of rounds were fired into the UNIFIL zone.

Hizbollah carried out another four attacks on the occupation zone from locations outside the UNIFIL area of operations. The attacks and the refusal of Beirut to disarm the militiamen demonstrate that Israel's massive weeklong bombardment of this area, killing 130 people, wounding 500 and driving 500,000 from their homes, did not accomplish the Rabin government's objective of securing peace along its frontier.

Progress towards peace more in mood than substance

By Donald M. Rothboog

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM — Progress towards peace in the Middle East is often measured more in subtle mood changes than in open declarations.

During U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's five-day visit to the region, the signs looked surprisingly positive. Israeli and Syrian leaders were talking of progress, and Mr. Christopher himself appeared upbeat.

A clearly optimistic sign was the parties' willingness to talk about peace so soon after a taste of war.

When Mr. Christopher arrived in the region a week ago, there was little reason to think he could accomplish much. Only eight days earlier, the region was shaken by one of its periodic explosions of violence, a fierce bombardment in southern Lebanon.

Israel unleashed its formidable fire power in response to Katyusha rocket attacks by Hizbollah guerrillas. The bombardment continued for a week and drove thousands of Lebanese from their homes.

Mr. Christopher played a key role in mediating an end to the fighting. So did Syrian President Hafez Al Assad, who is in a position to put political and military pressure on Hizbollah.

But the region still echoed with the gunfire when Mr. Christopher arrived, and a State Department official travelling with him blamed the fighting for "a souring of the overall atmosphere."

Then Mr. Christopher moved into a hectic schedule of shuttle diplomacy. In four days, he held talks in Egypt,

Syria, Lebanon, Israel, Jordan, back in Israel, and finally on Friday, a return to Syria.

The readiness with which the parties were willing to return to the issues of peace suggested the process that began a year and a half ago with some hope but far more pessimism has become, in a sense, institutionalised.

The commitment to that process appears stronger than old hatreds and the legacies of past wars.

Nowhere did that seem clearer than in Syria where Foreign Minister Farouk Sharaa said he felt optimistic that Mr. Christopher's trip "might help and salvage the peace process."

In his public statements on this trip, Mr. Christopher sounded like he sensed the opportunity to capitalise on that commitment.

NEWS ANALYSIS

He went so far as to say that the fighting in Lebanon may have "given a burst of energy to the negotiations."

As he moved from country to country, Mr. Christopher appeared more and more to adopt the role of mediator.

It was a comfortable role for a corporate lawyer accustomed to resolving problems.

He did a lot of listening and a little nudging.

"We're at the stage of asking questions, probing, exchanging information," he said.

Aides emphasised that the discussions involved more process than the substantive issues that separate the parties.

Mr. Christopher acted as a go-between, carrying messages from Syria's Assad and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

On his last full day in the region, Mr. Christopher met with Mr. Rabin in the morning and again in the evening.

Mr. Rabin fed the optimism of the moment by declaring after the morning session that Mr. Christopher had brought him "certain good news."

A moment later Mr. Christopher declared that "the peace process has been salvaged and is back on track."

The question is whether it is on a different track than before.

According to a State Department official, the current discussions involve such matters as the nature of a peace between Israel and Syria. Israel says a guarantee of peace is a condition for return of the Golan Heights to Syria.

Also on the process agenda are such questions as what does withdrawal of Israel from the Heights, seized in the 1967 war, mean, and what sort of security arrangement should be part of agreement between the two countries.

There are many questions of timing that are far from resolved. Mr. Christopher was no more specific than to say he would like to see real progress by the end of the year.

For all the positive signs, the region has been at this crossroads before. The parties have not even agreed to a date for resumption of negotiations in Washington.

Mr. Christopher is not the first secretary of state to believe he could be an effective go-between in the Middle East and guide the parties towards peace.

He probably won't be the last.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Two Yemeni MiGs crash; pilots killed

SANAA (R) — Two Yemeni MiG 21s crashed on Sunday during exercises over the Red Sea and both pilots were killed, the Defence Ministry said. A statement late on Sunday said the accident happened during "complicated exercises" and both aircraft crashed into the sea. It said the bodies of the pilots had not been found but one aircraft and the helmet of one of the pilots had been detected during a wide search by navy vessels and helicopters.

Largest Jewish community still in U.S.

TEL AVIV (AFP) — The 5.5 million Jews living in the United States still make up the largest Jewish community in the world, although Israel is fast catching up, according to an official report released here Monday. Some 4.3 million Jews live in Israel today, compared with just 1.9 million in 1960 and 3.9 million in 1990. Tens of thousands are arriving each year as new immigrants, mainly from the ex-Soviet Union. The study, carried out for the education ministry, found that U.S. Jews make up 43 per cent of world Jewry and 60 per cent of the Jewish diaspora.

3 out of 4 Israelis want Demjanjuk retried

TEL AVIV (AFP) — More than three out of every four Israelis want to see John Demjanjuk prosecuted for war crimes at Sobibor camp following his acquittal as a guard at a different camp, according to a Gallup poll published Monday. Demjanjuk was acquitted on appeal July 29 of being a Treblinka guard and ordered expelled after five years on death row. But hours before his scheduled expulsion on Aug. 1, the supreme court agreed to hear petitions to have him retried for his role as a Nazi guard at Sobibor. The poll found 75.3 per cent backed fresh prosecution, 18.4 per cent were opposed and 6.3 per cent had no opinion. Gallup interviewed 722 Israeli Jews last week at the request of the Simon Wiesenthal Centre, which has also petitioned the supreme court to have Demjanjuk retried. The court said there was not enough proof that the 73-year-old former Ohio car worker had been at Treblinka. But it did find proof that Demjanjuk trained as a guard and worked at Sobibor, in war-time Poland.

Kuwaitis arrested for hoarding arms

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) — The authorities here have arrested two Kuwaiti nationals for hoarding arms and ammunition, the Kuwaiti newspaper Al Anba reported, quoting intelligence sources. The two suspects were trying to hide 17 boxes loaded with arms, including rocket-propelled grenades and ammunition, in a farm south of the Kuwaiti capital when security forces moved in. The interior ministry would not confirm or deny the report. Al Anba, which did not give the date of the arrests, identified the two suspects as Abdul Aziz A. 25, and Khalil S. 37, and said one of them was the brother of an extremist who took part in attacks on Western embassies here in 1985 in which several people died. Reports at the time attributed the attacks to pro-Iranian guerrillas. The confiscated weapons had reportedly been abandoned by Iraqi troops after they were expelled from Kuwait in February 1991 at the end of the Gulf war. The Kuwaiti authorities have so far failed to locate all the weapons left behind, but an Interior Ministry official Wednesday announced that some 11,000 arms, including Soviet-made SAM-6 missiles and Kalashnikov assault rifles, had been seized in less than a year.

Egypt police detain suspects in explosives robbery

CAIRO (R) — Egyptian security forces have rounded up at least 50 men suspected of involvement in the stealing of explosives and detonators from a quarry north of Cairo, security sources said Sunday. In another operation east of Cairo Friday, police arrested 22 people suspected of planning attacks across the country. The identity of the quarry raiders was not immediately known but Muslim militants, seeking to turn Egypt into a purist Islamic state, are high on the list of suspects, the sources said. Ten gunmen disguised in military uniforms snatched the guns of three guards at the depot near Al Khanka town and tied them up, the sources said. They took 17,000 explosive capsules and 1,300 detonators.

One fundamentalist killed in Algeria

ALGIERS (AFP) — One suspected Muslim fundamentalist was killed and another wounded and arrested after police were alerted to the presence of four armed men in a wood in the northern outskirts of the capital, security officials said Sunday. The other two suspected extremists managed to escape the security dragnet on Saturday in the Djar Al Afia district, the officials said.

Turkish paper interviews French hostages

ANKARA (AFP) — A Turkish paper which supports the separatist Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) printed interviews Monday with four French tourists taken hostage by the movement last month. It quoted them as hoping the Kurds would win independence and that Turkish troops would all be withdrawn. Observers here saw the article as a propaganda move ahead of next Sunday's anniversary of the PKK launching its rebellion in south-east Turkey in 1984. The correspondent of the Ozgur Gundem newspaper said he met the hostages, who were said to be in good health, in a valley somewhere in the south-east of Anatolia province.

Qatar to contest ruling for Westland

DUBAI (R) — Qatar said Monday it would contest a Geneva-based court ruling awarding Westland Helicopter Ltd. £385 million (\$575 million) in damages in its breach of contract action against three Arab states and two companies. "Qatar asserts that it will contest the ruling through all possible legal ways including appeal... it will also reject any implementation measures that Westland might take in this regard," said a statement by the Defence Ministry. Westland had said in July that the Geneva-based arbitral tribunal had awarded it the money in damages in its breach of contract action against Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, the Arab Organisation for Industrialisation (AOI) and the Arab British Helicopter Company (ABH).

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 771111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 Omniscience
18:30 Maguy
19:00 News in French
19:15 Varieties
19:30 News in Arabic
20:00 People Next Door
21:10 A Kind of Magic
22:00 News in English
22:57 James Cagney, Top of the World

PRAYER TIMES

04:26 Fajr
05:51 (Sunrise) Dhuha
12:41 Dhuhur
16:21 'Asr
19:31 Maghrib
20:57 'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swellish, Tel. 810740
Assembly of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624990
Church of the Annunciation, Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terribanda Church Tel. 622366

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 62541

Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 772361

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751

Assam International Church Tel. 625256

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 624328

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 623624, 654932

Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Normal summer weather will prevail and winds will be northerly to moderate. In Agaba, winds will be northerly to moderate and sea calm.

Min./Max. temp.
Amman 25 / 33
Agaba 25 / 41
Deserts 19 / 37
Jordan Valley 24 / 39

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 32, Agaba 40. Humidity readings: Amman 20 per cent, Agaba 33 per cent.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Nidal Al Malsiri 751672
Dr. Hanna Mansour 776197
Dr. Mohammad Al Azzeh 752971
Dr. Jum'a Abu Dhiab 748848
Firas pharmacy 661912
Ferdous pharmacy 778336
Al Asena pharmacy 637055
Nairoukh pharmacy 626672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Nairoukh pharmacy 637660
Nairoukh pharmacy 626672
Najib pharmacy 847632

IRBID:
Dr. Mohammad Al Helu 297773
Alquds pharmacy (-)

ZARQA:
Dr. Akram Al Haddad 985330
Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power 636381
Company 0272225
RJ Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Alia Int. Airport 08-53200

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111

Civil Defence Department 661111

Civil Defence Emergency 630341

Rescue Police 199

Fire Brigade 891228

Blood Bank 775121

University Hospital 843602

Traffic Police 896390

Public Security Department 630321

Hotel Complaints 605800

Price Complaints 661176

Complaints 897467

Amman Municipality 787111

Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121

Overseas Calls 010230

Central Amman Telephone 623101

Repairs 661101

Abdali Telephone Repairs 775111

Hussein Medical Centre 81381332

Khalifeh Maternity, J. Amn 64428116

Al-Jalil Maternity, J. Amn 64244112

Jabal Amman Maternity 642362

Mahlas, J. Amman 636140

Palestine, Shmeisani 66417114

Shmeisani Hospital 669131

University Hospital 843602

Al-Muasher Hospital 66722719

The Islamic, Abdali 127137

Al-Abli, Abdali 641646

Home News



Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali Monday reviews the government's responsibilities in promoting cultural progress at a meeting with Minister of Culture Mahmoud Al Samra (centre left) and other ministry officials.

Majali says state is duty-bound to facilitate the cultural process

AMMAN (Petra) — The state has a duty to organise and facilitate the cultural process and to create an opportune climate guaranteeing cultural creativity and encouraging poets, writers, artists and researchers, said Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali Monday.

Addressing senior officials of the Ministry of Culture, the prime minister said the promotion of art should not be considered a routine of government, because such a notion would corrupt and damage cultural objectives.

Art is a mission with a clear goal, expressing the thoughts and ideas of the community, added Dr. Majali at the meeting attended by Minister of Culture Mahmoud Al Samra and ministry Secretary General Mohammad Amareh.

Urging ministry officials to cooperate in promoting cultural activities, Dr. Majali said all officials are partners in shouldering the state's responsibility and ought to contribute towards controlling expenses.

Dr. Samra reviewed the ministry's policies and future plans. The meeting was held at the National Library, whose activities and programmes were discussed by the prime minister, Dr. Samra and ministry officials.

Discussions also focused on plans for the development of the Jordanian theatre and effective measures to encourage reading among the public.

Mr. Amareh told the meeting that among this year's cultural activities is the Amman Cultural Forum which will open in Amman on Aug. 22.

The three-day forum, he said, will centre on short story writing in Jordan. Participants from Egypt, Syria, Iraq, Lebanon, Tunisia, Morocco, Yemen and Palestine, in addition to Jordanian writers and researchers, are expected to take part in this forum, said Mr. Amareh.

Furthermore, the ministry is preparing for a Jordanian children's song festival to be held in Amman in October this year, and it plans to take part in the Tunis Book Exhibition next month, he added.

He said the ministry is planning to organise the second Jordanian Children's Festival in Amman during November, and also that month will distribute the state's awards for literary work.

The distribution of awards, he noted, will take place on Nov. 14, His Majesty King Hussein's birthday.

Circular instructs government to respond to court notices

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali Monday issued a circular to all government offices and ministries instructing them to respond promptly to any notification from the Higher Court of Justice on matters related to court cases.

It has become clear that some departments have failed to contact the administrative office of the public prosecutor and the Higher Court of Justice upon receiving such notifications, said the prime minister in the circular.

He said neglect of these matters would inevitably cause damage to the state's rights and the public interest.

Various government offices are urged to respond immediately to court notifications and prepare themselves to present their cases in accordance with the Higher Court of Justice Law of 1992, added the circular.

In another circular, Dr. Majali instructed the Ministry of Education to strictly abide by 1993 regulations concerning the appointment of staff in temporary posts.

The Ministry of Education should set out clearly defined rules for the appointment of temporary staff, paying them from allocations originally earmarked for overtime work, said the circular.

It said such rules and regulations ought to be published in the local press, noting that any appointment under this category should not exceed 10 months in duration.

The circular also noted that temporary appointments should by no means serve as a pretext for giving these appointees priority for permanent jobs with the Ministry of Education or other government offices.

Crown Prince ends official visit to Qatar, says talks were frank and clearly focussed

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan returned to Amman Monday at the end of a two day official visit to Qatar describing his talks with Qatari leaders as "successful."

His Highness said the talks constituted "a good beginning for Jordanian and Qatari relations and people."

"I was deeply impressed by the enthusiastic welcome and hospitality accorded to me and by the general views of the Qatari leaders and people vis-a-vis the peaceful inter-Arab relations over the past few years," said Prince Hassan upon his return to Amman. He was welcomed back by His Majesty King Hussein, Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali and senior government officials.

Jordanian-Qatari talks, he said, were frank and clearly focussed on various aspects of Qatari-Jordanian economic, political, social security and regional cooperation.

The Crown Prince said that he was optimistic that this visit marked a new chapter in Qatari-Jordanian relations, adding that the Qatari leaders share the same view and desire for better relations.

He said that Qatar and Jordan are seeking to achieve a "new awakening" among the Arabs leading to setting the stage for closer regional cooperation in cultural, economic and social fields.

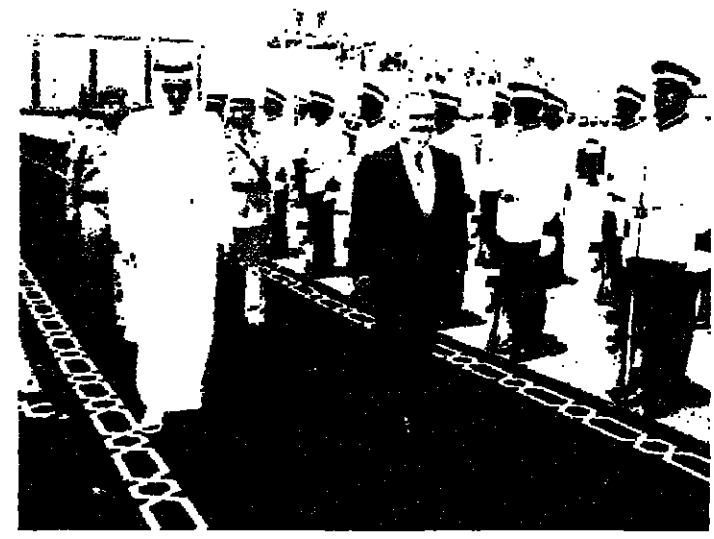
In his review of the present dangers facing the region, said Prince Hassan, the Jordanian and Qatari sides have discovered that they shared similar views on the subject.

Prince Hassan voiced his deep appreciation for the hospitality, and brotherly feelings accorded to him and his delegation during the visit.

In reply to a question on whether Jordan was planning similar visits to other Gulf states, the Prince said that in the pan-Arab relationship one would need to exercise patience and perseverance taking into account that bilateral relationships must be based on mutual respect.

The Crown Prince briefed the university president and professors on King Hussein's stands on the first crisis facing Kuwait in the 1960s, saying Jordan has firmly supported Kuwait and sent its forces to defend that Gulf emirate and its independence because the decision was then taken by the Arabs.

The Prince also dwelt on the role of the Arab League and its performance, and called on Arab intellectuals to take the initiative to tackle the current Arab situation. Describing Arab intellectuals as the persecuted Arab tribe, he expressed hope that they will be able to overcome crises "and earthquakes imposed on the nation from outsiders in every decade."



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan with Qatari Crown Prince Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani during his visit to Qatar which ended Monday (photo by Bogos)

Qadi says visit is a success

By Caroline Faraj
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Jordan's Ambassador to Qatar Nayef Al Qadi said His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan's visit to Qatar ushered in a new era in inter-Arab relations and strengthening Jordanian-Qatari ties.

Speaking by telephone with the Jordan Times from Doha, capital of Qatar, Mr. Qadi said that Prince Hassan's visit was one of the "most successful" visits to the country since the outbreak of the Gulf crisis three years ago. He added that it also constituted a new move towards reconciling Arab countries whose relations strained as a result of the crisis.

"This visit was an excellent step towards cementing Jordanian-Qatari relations which have always been marked by depth and honesty," said the ambassador.

Mr. Qadi said that the Crown Prince and his host Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani reviewed all issues of concern to the Arab World and appraised the current situation.

"It was clear that the two sides are determined to go ahead towards giving momentum to efforts aimed at achieving pan-Arab solidarity creating an opportune climate to restore confidence among Arab countries," Mr. Qadi added.

On the bilateral level Mr. Qadi said that the two sides conducted a comprehensive assessment of Jordanian-Qatari cooperation in various fields, calling for the revival of bilateral agreements.

Promising oil found near Dead Sea

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Oil exploration near the Dead Sea has yielded highly promising signs, with an initial well producing up to 2,000 barrels per day (bpd) of crude, official sources said Monday.

According to an oil and energy source, the Natural Resources Authority (NRA) and the Ministry of Energy and Oil Resources are now looking for the appropriate equipment to further tap the area.

"We do not have the equipment to go down further than the 400 metres we already did and found oil at 300 metres," said the source. "All indications are that the main deposits is under the waters of the Dead Sea."

"What has been found so far is very promising and warrants concerted efforts in the area," the source said.

The source, who preferred anonymity saying the government would make a formal announcement as and when appropriate, said the quality of oil found at the site was very good.

"It has a low content of sulphur, although this is no guarantee that the main deposit would also be of the same chemical composition," the source told the Jordan Times.

Experts closely familiar with exploration in the area said it was time for a comprehensive geological study of the entire area with special focus on oil deposit.

"The base rock, or the main deposit, is buried under the Dead Sea, and the best step forward is to conduct a closer geological and seismological study of the Dead Sea to locate it," said an expert.

"The discovered deposits could only be partial reservoirs holding overflows and seepages from the main deposit," added the expert, who also preferred anonymity.

The expert said Jordan would not have to seek foreign help in conducting the study since the NRA has developed a "strong technical base and know-how to assess mineral and oil deposits."

"But if actual drilling is to be conducted in Dead Sea waters then Jordan will have to look for foreign equipment and expertise to a limited extent," added the expert, noting that NRA exploration activities so far were mostly conducted in the desert and solid terrain.

Jordan launched oil exploration in earnest in the mid-80s. Initial findings near Azraq in the northeast have petered out, and output has come down to negligible amounts in the past three years.

Exploration activities conducted by the NRA as well as at least three foreign companies are continuing in several parts of the Kingdom, which, many believe, could not be without significant oil deposits, given the fact that its neighbours Iraq and Saudi Arabia as well as Syria are richly endowed with hydrocarbons.

A sizeable deposit of natural gas — 215 billion cubic feet — has already been found at Al Rishah, near the Iraqi border and is feeding 22 cubic million feet every day to run two 30-megawatt turbines, which account for 13 per cent of the Kingdom's power needs.

The output will be raised to 44 million cubic feet per day with the completion of a holding facility, which is being built with Canadian assistance, and thus raise the contribution of gas-run generators to the overall needs of the country.

At least two other wells within a 50-kilometre radius of Al Rishah, within Jordanian territory, are believed to hold huge deposits of natural gas although definite quantities have yet to be established.

Jordan's daily need of oil is estimated at 50,000 barrels of crude and 25,000 barrels of fuel. The Kingdom depends on Iraq for the entire quantity, which is trucked across the border to the refinery at Zarqa.

Accidents, shootings taking 10 lives

AMMAN (J.T.) — At least 10 people, including two young girls, were killed and several others injured in different incidents and car accidents in Jordan over the past 24 hours.

A report in the local press Monday said that two persons aged 18 and 23 were killed when they were shot during a dispute among local residents in Rweishid, a desert town near the Jordanian-Iraqi border. The report said that the police were investigating the case.

Three people, travelling along the Amman-Mafraq road, in a taxi, were killed when their vehicle collided head-on with a truck. The driver of the small car was among the dead, said the report. Five other passengers in the car were wounded and taken to Mafraq Hospital for treatment, it added.

In Sweileh, near Amman, a 40-year-old woman was killed when she was shot with a hand gun. Police were investigating the case and that initial reports suspected either the woman's brother or son in the killing, noted the report.

Parties, politicians condemn dissolving parliament, call for keeping Election Law unamended

AMMAN — An alliance of several political parties in Jordan Monday deplored a decision to dissolve Parliament, implying that the decision bore the marks of American and other forces oriented against the democratic process in the Kingdom.

A statement which was signed also by a large number of former deputies and other prominent personalities, also criticised any government moves to change or amend the present Election Law.

Following is the text of the statement:

The coalition of political forces aligned against surrender and capitulation is following with deep concern the implication behind the government's decision to dissolve the Parliament three months before its mandate was due to end according to provisions of the Jordanian Constitution. The decision to dissolve the Lower House of Parliament coincided with a wide scale campaign aimed at paving the ground for a new Election Law and coupled with signs of satisfaction over these developments displayed by certain American circles.

In light of this situation, many people are haunted by increasing fears that the measures are being carried out to fulfill the desires of foreign and other Arab circles which have made no secret of their fears from the Jordanian democratisation process.

Acting from our deep conviction that the Constitution should remain the only source of all powers, we hereby join the majority of Jordanians in voicing our opposition to the dissolution of Parliament for the following reasons:

First — There should not be any vacuum in authority. Should the Executive Authority resign or be relieved of duty, it is normally requested to continue in office until a new government has been formed to take its place so that no vacuum is created. Should the post of the head of state become vacant for any reason, it is normally filled immediately because state authority accepts no vacuum by nature. The Legislative Authority is not an exception in this case. On the contrary, the Legislative Authority should remain in office until the results of the following parliamentary elections have appeared.

Second — According to norms, the Lower House is dissolved when it becomes impossible for it to cooperate with the Executive Authority and this is done for the sake of averting any paralysis in the state function. In this case, Parliament and the government are dissolved to pave the ground for a provisional government to supervise the next parliamentary elections. Never before in the history of this country was Parliament dissolved before its mandate has been completed unless there was a collision between the executive and the legislative authorities and there was no room for them to work on a common understanding.

Third — The remaining period in the life of the Lower House of Parliament was not a short one especially in view of the critical stage our region is going through and in the light of circumstances whose results no one is able to predict. It would have been better for a country to confront future eventualities with a Lower House of Parliament which can help deal with developments. We would like to recall a move by the government in 1984 when it had to seek a royal decree to call the dissolved Parliament to convene to endorse a constitutional amendment, following which the house was dissolved again.

In conclusion, we had hoped that the government would take steps towards preparing for the parliamentary elections and not to pounce on the democratic process, which had effectively contributed towards reflecting the cultural image of Jordan in the Arab region, causing it to regress.

Since the government has failed to listen to advice, it is now called upon to conduct parliamentary elections in accordance with the existing Election Law and not according to a temporary law which is not backed by any provision in the Constitution which the government had vowed to uphold and respect.

The statement was signed by the following:

The Muslim Brotherhood Movement, the Islamic Action Front, the Arab Popular Liberation Movement, the Arab Baath Socialist Party, the Jordanian Revolutionary People's Party, the Arab Avant-garde Movement, the Progressive Democratic Nationalists, the Socialist Nationalists in Jordan, the National Action Party and a large number of Parliament deputies and well-known political personalities.

Women's rural cooperative reports progress

AMMAN (Petra) — The Women's Rural Cooperative Society, founded in the central Jordan Valley region four years ago, has reported progress in promoting the status of rural women, especially those involved in farming.

Mathayel Al Huayan, president of the society, which has its office in Deir Alla, said that the 50 members of the society aim at raising the standard of living among these women by initiating production schemes.

"We also aim at organising social activity and urging women to exploit all parts of agricultural land in the Jordan Valley and market and process agricultural products," said Mrs. Al Huayan.

"We encourage the spirit of cooperation among the society members and in order to achieve this in practice, the society provides its members with primary materials for their sewing and embroidery work, facilities and loans to help local women purchase their own machines and equipment and transportation, she said.

The society has purchased its own buildings and implemented farming projects and new plans to encourage large-scale sewing and knitting projects and marketing the products in the cities, she added.

Furthermore, the society provides health services to its members and has employed some of them in running society-owned stores which sell products and consumer goods at reasonable prices, Mrs. Al Huayan continued.

Citing one example of cooperative work, Mrs. Al Huayan said the society leased 31 dunums which were planted with wheat yielding 11.5 tonnes netting a profit of JD 1,100.

It plans to set up a health centre in Maaddi to operate on a purely commercial basis to earn the society income, said Mrs. Al Huayan.

Furthermore, she said, the society is contemplating the establishment of a small-size dairy plant to ensure work for job-seeking women and ensure a steady income for the society.

WHAT'S GOING ON

- ### EXHIBITIONS
- Exhibition of paintings by Jordanian artist Bishara Najjar at Eshbilla Art Gallery, Amra Shopping Centre. The paintings depict Jordanian-Palestinian heritage, Jordanian antiquities, Arab Jerusalem, rural life and natural scenery.
 - Exhibition of a new collection of art works by Princess Wijdan Ali at The Gallery, Hotel Jordan Inter-Continental.
 - Exhibition entitled "Hashemite Paintings" by Jordanian artist Iyad Al Masri at the Royal Cultural Centre.
 - Exhibition of British archaeological projects in Jordan, organised by the British Institute in Amman for Archaeology and History, at the British Council.
 - Exhibition of paintings by 25 Jordanian artists at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ### JERUSALEM FESTIVAL
- Exhibition of paintings, posters, Palestinian costumes, books and other items on the holy city of Jerusalem at the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation.
 - Seminar, in Arabic, entitled "Democracy — Reality and Aspirations" at 6.30 p.m. at the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation.
 - Bulgarian film entitled "The Age of Males" at 8 p.m. at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation.
- ### AL FUHEIS FESTIVAL
- Seminar, in Arabic, entitled "Al Fuheis: The Place and the Memory" at the city's Cultural Forum Plaza at 6.30 p.m.
 - Concert by Syrian Artist Shadi Jamil at 9 p.m. at the Latin Church theatre.
 - Exhibition of paintings, photographs, books and handicrafts at Al Balqa Art Gallery.

Arab human rights group demands resignation of administrative committee

By Sa'eda Kilani
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The general assembly of the Arab Organisation of Human Rights (AOHR) Jordan branch Sunday accused the organisation's administration of poor performance and incapacity to take a stand against what it views as repeated human rights violations in the country and demanded the group's resignation.

Criticism of the AOHR administration was sparked off in an extraordinary session held to discuss a report earlier submitted to, but not acted upon by AOHR.

The report, by former deputy Leith Shubailat, a founder of AOHR, centres on allegations in Al Nafeer case in which the two former deputies, Mr. Shubailat and Yaqoub Qarrash were convicted of heading an organisation called Shabab Al Nafeer Al Islami (vanguard of Islamic youth) and planning to use illegal arms against the state. The deputies, who were sentenced to 20 years of hard labour for plotting to overthrow the monarchy, received Royal pardon on Nov. 13.

At the meeting, the general assembly criticised the performance of the administrative committee, particularly what it saw as the panel's silence over Al Nafeer case and its incapacity to pressure the government on all issues concerning human rights abuses.

"If the organisation is afraid to defend human rights violations in the country, then no one can dare raise his/her voice on any issue," AOHR member Babjat Abu Gharbieh said. "Until now, AOHR has been incapable of playing an effective role," he said. But he pointed out optimistically, this session can be the point of departure.

Those members who supported Mr. Gharbieh's suggestion also urged that the committee play more active role in the Jordanian political arena, especially concerning corruption cases, arbitrary arrests such as that of Mu'tah students less than three months ago and Royal pardons.

"There has to be reconsideration of the issuance of Royal pardons since they might involve corruption cases too," AOHR member Toujan Faisal said.

Ms. Faisal also called for reviewing all laws inconsistent with human rights principles and introducing amendments to the constitution concerning the immunity of Lower House deputies.

She said they should enjoy full immunity during their four-year term in office.

Senator Husni Ayyesh insisted that the organisation's members become more active in defending human rights and stressed that whatever decisions are taken in Al Nafeer case must set the precedent for all other cases since rights are indivisible.

Pressured by the general assembly, the administrative committee finally took decisions on issues that the assembly said as long delayed. The committee approved draft resolutions suggested by Mr. Shubailat and decided to publish these resolutions along with his report, which was originally submitted to the administrative committee three months ago, but was never distributed or published until Sunday's meeting.

"Furthermore both documents will be published together with lawyer Hani Dahleh's report submitted to the committee last year, shortly after Shubailat-Qarash trial ended. It was not made public and was delayed until a court ruling on the sedition case, but this report also brief was never published."

Mr. Dahleh's report listed the various alleged violations perpetrated by the Jordanian security apparatus in Al Nafeer trial, especially the extraordinary measures taken against the accused such as solitary confinement, banning visits to the prisoners, accepting tape recordings as court evidence and preventing prisoners from conferring privately with their lawyers.

Mr. Dahleh, the AOHR representative at the Shubailat-Qarash trial, pointed out that in addition to other violations he was prevented from entering the court on two consecutive occasions.

Mr. Shubailat's document also condemned the Jordanian security system for "serious violations" in Al Nafeer case.

It charged the Ministry of Information and Jordanian Broadcasting Corporation with deliberate participation in an intensive media campaign to mobilise the public against the two former deputies.

The document, which resembles that of Mr. Dahleh's report in content, calls for bringing all those involved to trial.

Although the administrative committee finally approved the statement and agreed to publish the three reports, it was again attacked at the end of the two-hour session for "not giving time to human rights issues."

Angry members demanded the session be extended, but the administrative committee categorically returned and walked out.

One committee member lashed out, accusing Mr. Shubailat of "using the occasion as a publicity stunt before the upcoming elections."

Other general assembly members raised their voices in the chaotic and tense atmosphere demanding the resignation of the administrative committee in protest against their inefficiency.

Elections for the committee are expected to be held in six months, but some furious members vow to force resignations before that date.

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Getting the act together

THE APPARENT postponement of the meeting by the Arab parties to the Middle East peace talks, originally scheduled to be held in Beirut on Aug. 10 until the date of the 11th round of Arab-Israeli bilateral peace talks is determined, comes as a big disappointment to the efforts that aim to put the Arab house in order. While the timing of the next round has yet to be fixed due to "new complications" that arose in the aftermath of the Israeli attack against South Lebanon and in the wake of the seemingly burgeoning disarray in Palestinian ranks, holding the previously agreed-upon meeting of the foreign ministers would have granted the Arab side a fresh opportunity to clear things up.

There is malaise in the air, and it is attributable to disunity on the Palestinian level as well as on other Arab fronts. There is no doubt that to a considerable extent the Palestinian disarray itself is the result of attempts by some to manipulate the Palestinian stance vis-a-vis the bilateral talks. Witness the reaction by Palestinian delegates to the Egyptian government's intervention in the Palestinians' position paper, which Cairo gave to the U.S. Secretary of State, Warren Christopher, even before the delegation had even seen it. What ensued was a string of Palestinian position papers containing different versions that ended up confusing the Palestinians themselves and friends and foes alike. The end result was the fuelling of a new cycle of recriminations within the Arab camp.

Against such a backdrop, convening an urgent Arab meeting in Beirut would seem to be the most appropriate step that could be taken. The mere gathering of the Arab parties would not be enough to ensure the success of efforts for coordination and reconciliation among all sides.

But, an Arab conference at the ministerial level cannot be expected to deliver on the long-sought after Arab unity towards the peace process, then it may be worthwhile thinking about a summit that can handle this issue and many more. The stakes are indeed high and warrant such a summit by the heads of state of the concerned Arab parties, since the bilateral talks have entered a crucial stage, where the final perimeters of the projected peace with Israel and its Arab neighbours have to be defined. The concerned Arab leaders owe it to themselves as well as to their peoples to get their act together and as soon as they can.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

HIS ROYAL Highness Crown Prince Hassan's visit to Qatar is regarded as the first ray of hope lighting the darkness of the tunnel of differences dominating the Arab World, said Sawt Al Shaba Arabic daily Monday. With this visit, Jordan and Qatar lay the first brick in the building of pan-Arab solidarity and open for the Arab states a real opportunity for reconciliation in the aftermath of the Gulf crisis, noted the daily. Jordan, which has always been calling for solidarity and closed Arab ranks and also joint Arab action in matters of common concern, has now taken the first step towards achieving this reconciliation among Arab countries, added the daily. Jordan, said the paper, has always called for issues in the Arab World to be settled without any foreign interference and without opening the door for the enemies of this nation to try to dominate Arab wealth and the Arab future. Qatar's bid to end inter-Arab differences, calling on the Arab leaders to rise above their side differences and take a collective stand vis-a-vis the common challenges, has been met with praise and respect from millions of Arabs, the paper pointed out. It said enmity and hostility among brothers can not achieve what respect and brotherly ties fail to accomplish. In this world, which abounds with challenges and dangers for the Arabs, no single Arab country can be safe acting on its own; and there should be close coordination and cooperation among the brothers who only together, said the paper, can put an end to the ambitions of the Arab Nation's enemies. The paper said that the Doha meeting was a step desired by the Arab masses and places the Arabs on the threshold of a new era for a progressive future.

A COLUMNIST in Al Dnstar expressed hope that Crown Prince Hassan's visit to Qatar will open a new chapter in inter-Arab relations. Taher Al Udwan said that certain foreign powers have an interest in perpetuating differences among Arab states and are continually fuelling these differences to protect their own interests. These powers are striving to keep the Gulf state isolated from the rest of the Arab World by reminding the world of the Gulf crisis and trying to distort the facts, added the writer. Qatar has been exemplary among the Arab countries in reaching out to the Arab states by calling for reconciliation among their leaders and it deserves all praise for this courageous step, said the writer. The return to the minimum level of solidarity among the Arabs is bound to help them end their differences and prepare themselves to confront the pressing challenges, said the writer. However, return of p... Arab solidarity is not going to be an easy task to achieve, therefore, a lot of patience and diligence are required at this stage, he added. The writer said that the Crown Prince's visit to Qatar was: first step towards starting a dialogue that would eventually er... up with a pan-Arab reconciliation.

Palestinian children need not die

By Joshua Scheffman

The writer is legal director of the Association for Civil Rights in Israel. This article is reprinted from the Aug. 8, 1993, issue of The Jerusalem Post.

The Jerusalem Post editorial of July 16, condemning Betsaleem's report on the killing of Palestinian children, is a classic example of an attempt to do away with the bearer of bad tidings, rather than deal with the message.

The basic fact that underlies the report is uncontested. In the six months beginning in December 1992, 19 Palestinian children aged 13 and under were killed by army and border guard personnel, as were 22 others aged 14 to 16.

Betsaleem doesn't argue that there is a policy to cause the deaths of children, but rather that negligence, overboard rules of engagement and disregard for human life have caused many deaths unwarranted by the difficult situation faced by soldiers in the territories. A concerted effort by the army to prevent these deaths could have saved many human lives. The past two months have borne out this conclusion.

After the large number of children's deaths came to the public's attention and alarmed high government officials and army commanders, there was a sharp drop in the number of fatalities among young residents of the territories.

The Post editorial ascribes to Betsaleem a political agenda, and puts the blame solely at the door of the Palestinian leadership for its cynical exploitation of chil-

dren. Curiously, the only "proof" offered for this assertion consists of references to Ghabb Pasha, Iran, Lebanon and Hitler Youth.

The Post alleges that Betsaleem considers all Arab witnesses trustworthy, and scoffs at the army's version of events. The Post, on the other hand, apparently gives total credence to the army, and claims as fact that "in virtually all instances, these children were killed either by unavoidable accident or through a panicked reaction of soldiers to a rioting mob."

Who is right — Betsaleem, whose fieldworkers take detailed statements from eyewitnesses and seek out the army's reaction before publication, or the Post?

Mohammad Alian, 14, was killed by a soldier's bullet on April 5, 1991. The army investigation has been completed, and the full military police file was made available to me as legal representative of the boy's family.

This is how Mohammad died: After a number of stone-throwing incidents in the Far'a camp, a special anti-rock-throwing squad was called in.

Orders were to enter the camp in a specially outfitted jeep to serve as "bait," and wait for an opportunity to open fire according to the rules of engagement.

The mission was to identify a stone-thrower at least 16 years old and shoot him in the leg. They were told that causing an injury would quieten down the camp. They were not asked to arrest anyone or to use tear gas or rubber bullets.

The squad entered the camp and was pelted by stones for some

time. But the sharpshooter was unable to "reach a situation in which the rules allowed opening fire." The squad pulled out and it was decided that the sharpshooter would try again, this time from a watchtower across the road.

The jeep reentered the camp, and for almost an hour was attacked with stones. The soldiers did not react and were, fortunately, not hurt. The sharpshooter in the tower was still unable to find a target the right age who was holding a stone and could be said to be endangering the lives of the soldiers. It was decided to abort the mission.

As the jeep was moving out, the sharpshooter identified a youth who, he said, looked over 16. The soldier said he was holding a large rock and was running slowly after the jeep, which was 40 metres away (as measured by the military police).

The sharpshooter, who testified that he thought the jeep was closer, aimed at the boy's leg and shot a single bullet. It entered Mohammad Alian's skull, just above the left eye. The jeep continued driving and left the camp. Mohammad died in the car of an UNRWA official who tried to get him to a doctor.

This is the soldiers' story. Palestinian eye-witnesses whom I interviewed told the same story, with only one difference: they said that the boy had just left the mosque and was not holding a stone. That testimony was ignored by the investigators and by the military advocates who reviewed the case.

The IDF spokesman responded

to Betsaleem's inquiry on April 15, 1991, by saying that fire was opened because the soldiers were in immediate mortal danger and "there is no truth to the allegation that the soldiers were on their way out of the camp." According to the soldiers' testimony, given before the spokesman's response, the "allegation" was correct and the spokesman's statement was untrue.

The military advocate general ordered that a colonel, not involved in this specific operation, be disciplined for giving unclear orders. Those responsible for the operation, the military advocate found, were carrying out orders. No mention was made of the fact that orders to injure a person as a deterrent have been held by the Supreme Court and the military courts to be patently illegal and a soldier is required to disobey them.

The sharpshooter's claim that the boy was endangering the lives of the soldiers was taken by the advocate as fact, despite the distance between the boy and the jeep and the fact that the jeep was almost out of the camp, moving faster than the boy. No legal action was taken against any of the soldiers.

The military police report and the military advocates give Mohammad Alian's name as the youth who was killed. But throughout both reports, he is called "hametoni," "the local" or "the native." It may just be that deprecating the victims makes it easier to kill young Palestinians "according to the rules."

Budget victory — a political tonic for Clinton

By Gene Gibbons
Reuter

WASHINGTON — Bill Clinton's presidency is looking more secure after his budget victory in Congress, which is expected to clear the way for action on other elements of the hopeful agenda he brought to the White House.

Not long after taking office in January, the 46-year-old Clinton was scoring the lowest poll ratings of any new U.S. president as a series of bungled appointments and other political embarrassments tarnished his image.

But it is no small accomplishment to get U.S. legislators to vote to raise taxes and cut spending, and Mr. Clinton's success in pushing his federal budget through Congress this week should boost his stature and help to energise his presidency.

The plan, billed by Mr. Clinton as a major step towards creating a stronger economy that will bring jobs, would cut the huge U.S. government deficit by \$496 billion over five years through \$255 billion in spending cuts and \$241 billion in new taxes.

"There's no question that it crowds out a lot of the minor flaps that occurred in the early months," said Gene Sperling, a White House economic policy aide. White House spokeswoman Dee Dee Myers crowed: "It shows that the Democrats can govern and can get their fiscal house in order."

Political analyst Stephen Hess said the president had shown strong leadership.

Mr. Clinton finished his first few months in office with some polls putting his job approval rating as low as 36 per cent.

He has worked hard to turn that around, reshuffling his staff and hiring veteran Republican David Gergen to smooth his relations with the media and help him hone his economic message.

Mr. Clinton took office in January 1993 with hopes running high that he would move swiftly to bring new prosperity to a country that had suffered four years of slow growth and recession.

But setbacks raised questions about his ability to lead his country and threatened his presidency.

He ran into controversy with the military over the issue of allowing homosexuals to serve in the armed forces, then with his nominations for attorney general. He also failed to steer his \$16 billion economic stimulus package through the Senate.

A \$200 haircut he got while sitting in the presidential plane at Los Angeles airport leading to reports he denied — that the trim had delayed air traffic, and frequent White House visits by his

Hollywood friends eroded the "man of the people" image that he cultivated during his campaign.

But his budget victory clears the way for action on other elements of his agenda, such as health care reform and the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) with Canada and Mexico.

"Given the complexities of the (budget) system and the chokepoints in it... I think (Clinton) has probably accomplished more legislatively in this regard than either (Jimmy) Carter or (George) Bush did," Mr. Hess said.

Mr. Carter, the last Democratic president, suffered repeated economic policy rebuffs from Congress, and Mr. Bush was forced to grovel politically after a devastating budget defeat in 1990.

"There's no question that it crowds out a lot of the minor flaps that occurred in the early months. It shows that the Democrats can govern and can get their fiscal house in order"

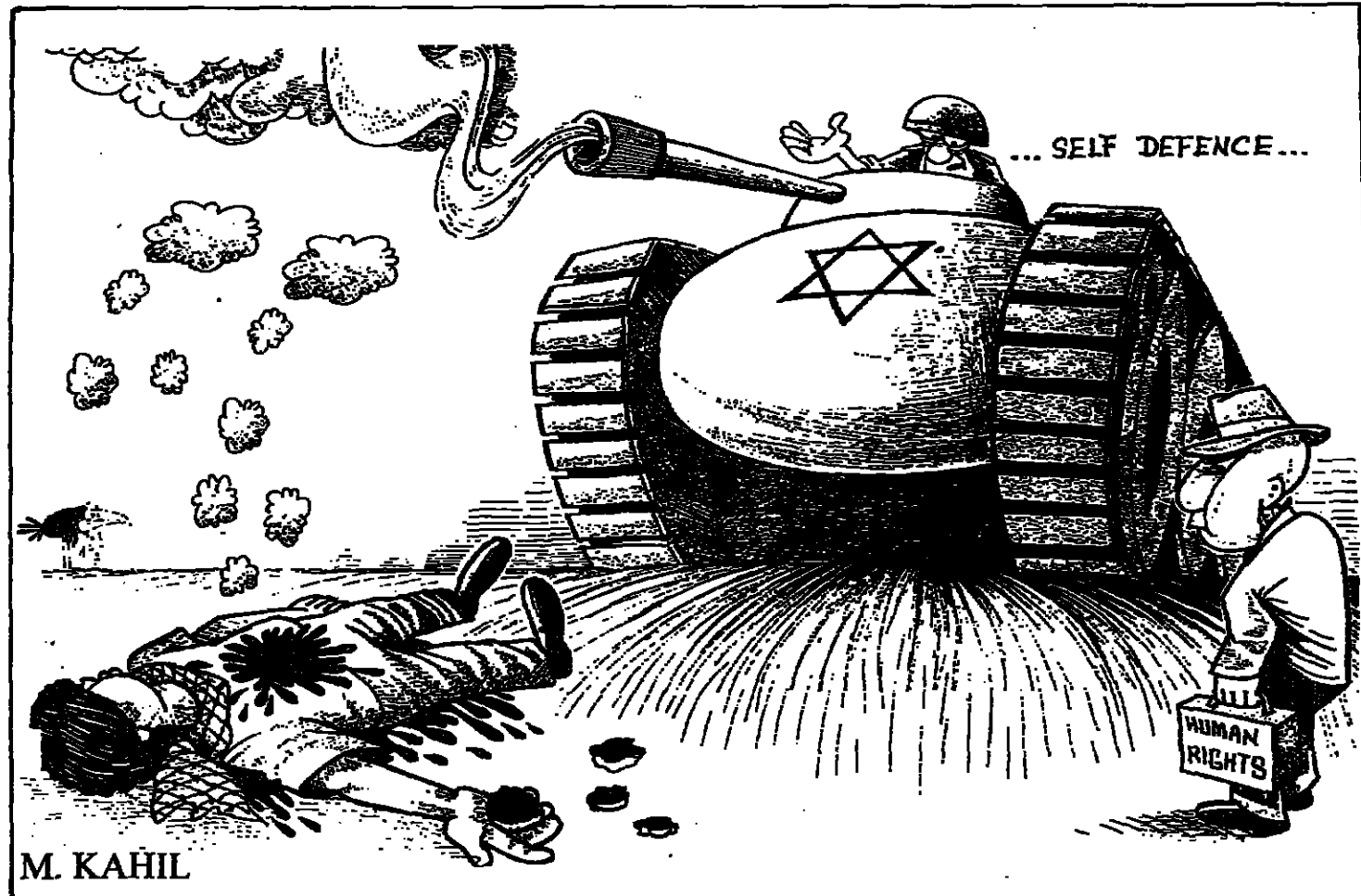
Mr. Clinton plans to follow up on his budget triumph with a trip to Charleston, West Virginia, for a victory rally on Monday.

Then he will travel to the mid-west to inspect flood damage, go on to Colorado to welcome Pope John Paul II and fly to California to renew his pledge to revitalise the economically ravaged west coast.

Mr. Clinton is gambling that his budget plan will generate lower interest rates. It also includes a modest economic stimulus that he and his advisers hope will offset any economic drag caused by new taxes and spending cuts.

"After a long season of denial and drift and decline, we are seizing control of our economic destiny," Mr. Clinton said. "This is just a first step to assert control over our financial affairs, to invest in our future and grow our economy."

In a televised appeal for public support of the package before the vote, Mr. Clinton said it was just "the first step on a longer journey" towards a comprehensive economic strategy.



For Chinese boat detainees, legal process grinds on

By Ted Anthony
The Associated Press

ALLENTOWN, PA. — Jailed Chinese are fighting deportation in a legal system they fear may not be much fairer than the land they fled, where dissent is stifled and punishment is swift.

Attorneys representing detainees stranded when their cargo ship ran aground off New York City in June say court hearings are proceeding too fast to serve anybody's purpose but that of the government.

"Are they frightened? I'd say they're absolutely terrified," said Michael Usher, an Allentown lawyer.

Mr. Usher has organized a group of colleagues to represent the detainees for free and to help them fight to stay in the country they risked safety and savings to reach.

"At least when they were on the boat, they were on their way to America. Now a lot of them are losing hope," Mr. Usher said.

Forty-eight Chinese are being held at a minimum-security prison near Allentown. An additional 117 are lodged at York County prison in south-central Pennsylvania.

They were among 288 Chinese aboard a rusty ship that hit a sandbar off a Queens beach June 5. Ten Chinese died in a race for land that also left five men hospitalized. Three others were never found. The remainder applied for political asylum and were distributed to detention centres in several states.

For detainees in Pennsylvania, deportation hearings began July 26 at Federal Immigration and Naturalisation Services (INS) offices in Philadelphia and are

proceeding at a clip of about four a day.

At least six detainees have received deportation orders and been returned to Lehigh County pending appeal, Mr. Usher said. No York County cases have been decided.

Advocates say an emphasis on expediency — motivated, they believe, by the Clinton administration's get-tough policy on illegal immigration — is giving the hearings a deportation-null flavour.

Edward Poon, an Allentown engineer and a member of the Chinese Christian Church of the Lehigh Valley, said some of the men lived through the most repressive era of communist China, the cultural revolution in the late 1960s and the 1970s.

"They know how brutal a government can be," Mr. Poon said. "The (U.S.) government is trying to clamp down on this activity once and for all at the expense of these people. It really stirs me quite a lot. They're being treated as some kind of statistic," he said.

President Clinton last month announced intentions to crack down on illegal immigration, saying the United States would no longer tolerate smuggling.

But the volunteer attorneys say the government's new, quick-fix resolve now means insufficient time with their clients, little opportunity to prepare their cases and scant information about where and when hearings will be held.

"We're swamped. The Justice Department wants to move this on almost at any cost," said Stephen Converse, a York attorney volunteering his services.

INS officials repeatedly refused to speak with the Associated Press for this story and finally

referred queries to the Justice Department's executive office of immigration. Spokeswoman Ana Cobian said the hearings were being conducted according to policy.

"The procedure is consistent with due process," Ms. Cobian said.

The Allentown inmates might quibble with that assessment. Their hearings were initially scheduled for Allentown, then moved 80 kilometres away to Philadelphia. That forced some volunteer attorneys to withdraw their services, leaving several detainees to face hearing with no lawyer. Legal representation is not a right in deportation hearings.

The INS ships in administrative law judges weekly, making consistency impossible, attorneys say.

They say requests for continuances have been denied, and detainees have told their attorneys they fear rubber-stamp decisions similar to their own government's.

"They're being railroaded," said Ana Mai Wong, a Philadelphia attorney and vice president of the Asian American Bar Association of the Delaware Valley.

"I think that the political tone now is to have these people sent back immediately. And I think the INS is starting to feel that pressure," Ms. Wong said.

U.S. congressman Paul McCrory said he was pressuring INS to return the hearings to the Lehigh Valley.

"For these people, the determination that will be made will influence the rest of their lives. It involves fundamental questions of human freedom," Mr. McCrory said.

By Donald M. Rothberg
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — With its determined push towards U.S. military action in Bosnia, the Clinton administration is sending a clear message to the Serbs: back off or suffer the consequences.

But the Serbs aren't the only ones listening and that complicates an already difficult problem.

The Bosnian Muslims, seen by the administration as the outgroup victims, may have read too much into the tough policy.

Since it came to power six and a half months ago, the Clinton administration has agonised over the bloodshed in Bosnia: how to stop the killing without getting too deeply involved militarily? How to get European allies to accept greater responsibility in their own back yard? How to settle on a level of U.S. involvement politically acceptable to an inward-looking American people?

Often the administration has seemed to be thinking out loud as it pondered policy choices. As a result, the messages it sent were decidedly mixed.

Strong signals were sent in the past week that after months of internal debate, advocates of military action had prevailed. There was still no thought of committing U.S. ground forces. The decision was for air power, planes that could streak to Bosnia and deal devastating blows on Serb positions and return to distant bases at supersonic speed.

But even at this moment of decisiveness the messages were muddled.

First a State Department spokesman said the United States was prepared to act alone in Bosnia if its NATO allies refused to agree to use air power. Within 24 hours the suggestion was re-

butated by President Clinton and Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

Then came the problem of the Bosnian Muslims, who would be the principal beneficiaries of an allied air campaign.

The suffering of the Muslims in the besieged city of Sarajevo has moved the administration to take action. Time after time, Mr. Christopher has referred to the "strangulation of Sarajevo."

To Muslim leaders, U.S. air power would be a compelling tilt in their direction. If it could assure humanitarian relief, it might also become a trump card in the three-way negotiations in Geneva over the future of Bosnia.

The Muslims have the weakest hand in Geneva and seem destined to lose a great deal of territory in any partition of the former Yugoslav republic.

Understandably perhaps, Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic became less interested in participating in such one-sided negotiations. He pulled out of the talks to protest further Serbian attacks in the mountains around Sarajevo.

That prompted one White House foreign policy aide to suggest that if the Muslims refused to negotiate, the United States would find it difficult to go ahead with air strikes.

Apparently not all administration officials agreed with that position.

Another U.S. official familiar with the discussions said no such message was delivered to Mr. Izetbegovic.

In fact, said the official, speaking on condition he not be named, senior administration policymakers were angered by press accounts saying the administration was using that tactic to pressure Mr. Izetbegovic to re-

turn to Geneva.

The U.S. response to the plight of the Bosnian Muslims also is closely watched in the Middle East, where Mr. Christopher spent most of the past week trying to revive peace talks between Israel and its Arab neighbours.

Bosnia was part of the discussion during Mr. Christopher's meetings with the leaders of Egypt, Jordan and Syria.

This is not the first time the Clinton administration has proposed tough action in Bosnia. Its proposal for air strikes was rejected last May by European allies during what proved an embarrassing tour of NATO capitals by Mr. Christopher.

That seemed to explain why, when State Department spokesman Mike McCrory was asked whether the United States would "go it alone" in Bosnia if NATO allies balked, he replied that the administration "is determined to act." He quickly added that the administration felt "it is possible we will act within the NATO framework."

His remarks prompted headlines that the United States was prepared to go it alone. Within 24 hours, Mr. Clinton in Washington and Mr. Christopher in Jerusalem shot down the McCrory statement and made it clear any military action in Bosnia would be multilateral.

Had Mr. McCrory spoken out of turn?

Not at all. He put out the message that the administration, and certainly Mr. Christopher, wanted out there as NATO began debating the U.S. proposal for air strikes.

Various messages for various people. In the thorny problem of Bosnia, it's hard to find a message that won't mean different things to different listeners.

Germany's spying past returns

By Marcus Kabel
Reuter

BONN — Germany's cold war past as a nest of East-West spies has returned to haunt the united country again, due to a mysterious list of 2,000 former communist "moles".

Chancellor Helmut Kohl's top espionage aide worried Bonn politicians, regional leaders, scientists and journalists when he announced last month that prosecutors had a list of agents who had infiltrated former West Germany.

Chancellor aide Bernd Schmidbauer's statement gained urgency this month with the arrest of four alleged former East German spies, including a suspected informant at the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO), and details by two Bonn politicians named in the media as further suspects.

If the list proves accurate, it could launch the biggest wave of espionage cases since German unification in 1990 exposed more than 200 agents who spied for the East German Stasi security service.

Even Mr. Kohl's conservative Christian Democrats (CDU), who have so far escaped a spy scandal in their senior ranks, are worried about any shock disclosure before regional and national elections next year.

"At the moment nobody in parliament can rule out being named," said Horst Eymann, a member of parliament's Justice Committee.

"It would certainly be bad if suspicion remained in the air for a long time that unknown members of parliament had been Stasi spies," Mr. Eymann, a member of the CDU, told Reuters. He added that he was confident prosecutors would work quickly on the list.

Germany, on the frontline of the cold war, was a hotbed for spying by the Warsaw Pact and NATO.

The country is struggling with that heritage after the conviction of leading Stasi spies including Gabriele Gast, who passed on Bonn's military and political evaluations of the Soviet bloc, and Klaus Karon, a counter-espionage leader and double agent.

Bonn has put former eastern agents, including the legendary East German spy master Markus Wolf, on trial. But the outcome is uncertain as the supreme court must decide whether it is fair to try eastern bosses for the same cloak-and-dagger work carried out by their western counterparts.

Counter-espionage officials and prosecutors are saying nothing about the source of the new list, which apparently uses code names and descriptions rather than agents' full identities.

Peter Struck, parliamentary manager of the opposition Social Democrats (SPD), says the government told parliament's Intelligence Committee the list came from information gathered from other Stasi spies and espionage chiefs.

"There are 2,000 names on this list," he told Reuters.

German media have said the list consists of copies of Stasi files handed over to Bonn by the Russian Security Service, successor to the Soviet KGB. Bonn began cooperating with the Russian service last year as part of a new post-cold war relationship. The Stasi's foreign espionage files were destroyed before German unity.

A new twist came from a German television report on Aug. 2 that said the files came from Moscow but were first sold to the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency, which passed them on to Bonn.

Mr. Struck said he was taking that report seriously enough to demand a government response at the next meeting of the Intelligence Committee in September. He said he feared the CDU might break an unwritten agreement not to use spy cases as a campaign issue in the forthcoming elections.

He based his concern on revelations in June that a senior Interior Ministry official had leaked secret documents alleging that former SPD Chairman Bjoern Engholm had a Polish spy among his close aides. The alleged spy has yet to be found and the official, Johannes Voeking, was fired over the affair.

Mr. Schmidbauer has said he expects a series of spy exposures that could rock Bonn and Germany's 16 federal states.

The counter-intelligence agency BFV has been turning the files over to federal prosecutors since July.

SPD politicians feel especially vulnerable, in part because some had close contacts with the Soviet bloc in the 1970s as part of West German detente efforts under SPD chancellors Willy Brandt and Helmut Schmidt.

Mr. Struck is urging his colleagues to remain calm.

"I only know what we have been told, but the number of people named as allegedly close to the SPD is not dramatic and they are not of very high calibre either."

Iraqi artist fascinated by old architecture

By Najwa Kefaya
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The exhibition of the Iraqi artist Adibah Al Kadi, presently showing at the Alia Art Gallery, is quite an interesting one. It is an original work where both authenticity and inspiration get together in total harmony. The colourful decorative mosaics inspired by the artist's imagination merge beautifully with the mysterious, enchanting old dwellings with their simplicity to intrigue the viewer's eyes.

Ms. Kadi's works are a testimony of the remaining of what was once a rich civilisation, illustrating the fascinating Iraqi architecture which is being obliterated by modernisation.

The huge, arched old mahogany doors whose wood was brought into Iraq all the way from India, the big brass nails and the differently shaped knockers, the protruding cage-like balconies (called in Iraqi dialect shanashil) where from the women in the old days used to watch the passers-by in the streets without being seen themselves are present in Ms. Kadi's works.

The artist focusses most on the doors in her paintings, and closed doors in particular without putting too much emphasis on the clay brick butts that surround them. She merely gives the houses the oldish look, by using a selection of pale brown colours with touches of pale green here and there, to give them a green look as grass and moss accumulate on their surfaces with time.

Other interesting features of these paintings are the stairs and the hallways leading into the dark

and mysterious; the Islamic trend which is quite obvious in the mosques and domes; women's misery contained in expressive women faces and eyes staring from behind bars with much sadness and bewilderment.

The oriental artist uses different techniques to create different styles in an attempt to avoid monotony in her work. Some of her 42 paintings on display are characterized by transparency while others by obscurity, although only oil colours are used in all the paintings. This is due to the fact that she alternates between using the brush and her fingers. It is also related to the texture of the surface of the painting which varies between smooth and crumbled. The diversity of colours has much to do with the texture too. Her colours range from the bright red, pink and green to the pale brown, orange, yellow and green.

At the end it is quite evident that the artist, who is married to a Jordanian and has been living in Jordan for nearly 17 years now, longs for her homeland, Iraq, where she was born, which she grew to love and cherish, and where she studied art and was influenced by the work of famous Iraqi artists.

The artist graduated from the Art Academy in Baghdad in 1968. She had participated in many exhibitions in Iraq as well as in other Arab countries. Her work is owned by many art collectors worldwide.

This exhibition lasts until Aug. 15, 1993.



Doors, stairs and hallways seem to fascinate Iraqi artist Adibah Al Kadi's works now on display at Alia Art Gallery

Dacia Maraini — on women, growing up in Sicily

By Clare Pedrick

ROME — For months, Dacia Maraini has topped Italy's best-seller list with her book "Bagheria." The slim volume, a largely autobiographical portrait of post-war Sicily, came about almost by accident, she says.

Solidly established as Italy's leading female writer, Ms. Maraini's theme is social justice, especially justice for women. She also writes for the cinema and theatre. Her feminist commitment is evident in novels such as "The Age of Discontent," which won her international acclaim in 1983, and one of her most recent books, "Isolina," a crime story about an upper-class army officer who kills the simple girl whom he has got pregnant, and the cover-up organised by the Italian army to save his reputation.

Half Sicilian, Ms. Maraini, 57, has ambivalent feelings about the island of her ancestors, where she spent part of her adolescence in the postwar years. "Bagheria" is a journey into her past, prompted by a visit to her family home in the town outside Palermo from which the book takes its name. She paints a stinging portrait of upper-class Sicilian society, with its taboos and hypocrisy.

The book was not planned, says Ms. Maraini. "I was writing another novel and had been for a year. I interrupted it to write what I thought was going to be a short story of five or six pages. But it grew and grew — clearly I had touched on an area of my memory that was very rich and was waiting to be unleashed."

The background of Sicily is important in the book, but Ms. Maraini says it took her a long time to be able to write about the island. "In a sense, I had rejected Sicily because too many things had pained me about the place. I was deeply affected by my experiences as a girl there — the lack of freedom and trust, the repressive attitude towards female adolescents. When I went back there a few years ago, I realised you cannot wipe out your memories. Even though they may remain buried for years, at a certain point they will surface."

Ms. Maraini says the Sicily of her childhood was beautiful from the point of view of the countryside and natural surroundings. "But it was terrible from the point of view of human relationships and the Mafia situation," she explained. "It was a very difficult place to grow up, even more so than now. For a girl, it was especially awful. We were immersed in a system that taught double standards, hypocrisy and not to express our real feelings."

Because she came from a family where there was a great deal of frankness and sincerity, she suffered even more. "I couldn't bear it, and at 18 I ran away and came to Rome. I was 50 before I went back there."

"In a way I do feel Sicilian," she said. "I speak the dialect. I



Dacia Maraini

know the food. These are things that are very close to my heart. And it's certainly a very different mentality." Mr. Maraini says things have changed a great deal in the past 20 years — especially for women, but there are still a great many things she finds unacceptable. "There are still areas in the hinterland of Sicily where life has remained as it always was."

Things have also changed as far as the Mafia is concerned. "I think that this has been a revolution. In Italy, we have never had a revolution, never toppled the hierarchy from power and cut off the king's head, as they did in France. At this moment we are actually 'cutting off the king's head.' The indictment of former Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti — who is being formally investigated for links with the Mafia — is the equivalent of cutting off the king's head. It's not as cruel as a real coup. It's bloodless. It is, nevertheless, a revolution."

Ms. Maraini says she doesn't know whether the process of political change and weeding out corrupt officials currently taking place in Italy will be allowed to run its course. "Those involved in the massive political kickback scandal are doing everything in their power to stop the judiciary machine. Now it has gotten into gear and it is really making headway."

She says this is extremely positive because it represents a wide-

spread thirst for justice. "There is a very strong consensus of the Italian people in favour of the judiciary. People are on the side of the magistrates at this moment, with the exception of those who are being investigated."

The key to this process of change, says Ms. Maraini, is the phenomenon of "pentitismo" — the repenting of former mafiosi. "It has been fundamental, and this is something that is not well understood outside Italy. Our civilisation, especially in Sicily, was based on 'omertà' — the Mafia code of silence. Upstanding, honest citizens did not speak out because they considered the state their enemy." Even though they suffered injustices, she explains, they were silent because speaking out would have been tantamount to siding with the enemy. "This led to the building of a wall of silence. That is changing. It's a dramatic step forward, a change in culture."

Ms. Maraini is not as clear on what prompted the change. "We are still so much in the thick of it that it is not easy to make a historical judgment," she says. The case of Tommaso Buscetta, former Mafia boss who turned state's evidence in 1984 and whose testimony led to the arrest of hundreds of mafiosi, was the first major mafioso to cooperate with the state.

Mr. Buscetta is not seen by the public as a traitor. Rather, he is seen as someone who wanted to distance himself from his people because he was disgusted and sickened by the way the Mafia had abandoned its own code of behaviour. "For the fight against the Mafia, Buscetta's decision was fundamental," she said. "Prior to that, no mafioso would ever have spoken. He would have died rather than cooperate with the state."

Ms. Maraini remains optimistic, despite the enormity of the corruption scandal sweeping Italy. "When a scandal comes to the fore, it means there has been a reaction. When a person develops a fever, his body is reacting against his illness." She says the worst thing is when there is no

reaction, just silence. "That means that scandals still exist, but no one is speaking about them."

She says this is an encouraging, exhilarating moment for Italian society because people who have been in power for 50 years are being brought to justice. "Everyone knew they were corrupt, but no one had the proof. Now, people have begun talking, and the proof is emerging," she added. "It is also a dangerous moment."

The system of corruption in Italy had become so widespread that the whole country was caught up in it. "Anyone who wanted to take an exam for a job in the civil service — for instance the postal service — had to find someone to back his application if he wanted to pass," she explained. "He may have felt it was unjust, but he did it all the same."

Everyone sought out friends in high places, paid bribes for the slightest thing, even to have something that was theirs by right. Ms. Maraini says. "In a sense, this is a form of corruption in which we were all involved. I have had to pay bribes for something that was mine by right. I felt it was deeply unfair." She says she thinks it is wonderful that politicians who have pocketed billions of lire through the years are being brought to trial.

In another vein, Ms. Maraini says the time for feminist ideology is over. "These days, feminism has a far more practical face," she said. "Thousands of women's groups have been formed in Italy to achieve a specific aim. For example, there are helpines for battered women. I am part of that group, and we get thousands of calls from women who have been beaten or raped. We have a group of female lawyers and psychiatrists on hand who give free counseling to help these women."

Nevertheless, Ms. Maraini says, the situation of women in Italy is by no means good. "There have been some excellent laws passed and some major steps forward in legal and civil terms." But, she says, from a cultural

point of view, women are in a bad way — and regressing instead of progressing.

"Small victories made by women have frightened some people," she explained. "The Church is terrified that this new situation will lead to the break-up of the family unit. It is scared of losing its hold over the family nucleus, which is one of the oldest institutions in Italy."

She says the Church is afraid of the right to an abortion, of divorce, to express the new freedom acquired by women.

"In Italy, the power of the Church is based on its control of the family," Ms. Maraini said. "Every day it comes out with a stand that flies in the face of the interests of women — against abortion, against the contraceptive pill, against the use of condoms, even now when AIDS needs to be combated." Sex education at school is not allowed. "They talk and talk but nothing gets done," she said. "The position of women in Italy is precarious at the moment, and the great victories scored in the 1970s are threatened."

The Church continues to forbid the use of contraceptives between married couples but, says Ms. Maraini, the days when couples have all the children they are able to are over. The Italian family has changed — and the statistics prove it. Latest figures show that Italy has the lowest birth-rate in Europe. "Things are different between husbands and wives, parents and children. People's circumstances have changed. Jobs have changed. The Church wants to keep everything as it was 20 years ago."

"Italian women don't want to have children any more because they want to be free," she said. "They want to work. Most of them want to have just one child. Italian women have adjusted to the times, to the fact that there are too many people in the world and to the need to pursue a more intelligent policy of population control. The Church has not — it continues to forbid contraception, which leads to clandestine abortions." — World News Link.

Drink

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Will not let franc slip

France cuts interest rate

PARIS (R) — France trimmed an interest rate Monday, a week after the effective float of currencies in the European exchange rate mechanism (ERM), but resisted a sharp credit easing which its recession-hit economy needs.

Economists said the Bank of France, which lowered the rate on its occasional overnight lending by a quarter point to 9-1/4 per cent, has made it clear it will proceed very cautiously with rate cuts as long as the franc remains under pressure.

"They are trying to move rates down slowly while keeping the (franc/mark exchange) rate steady," Christopher Potts, an economist at Banque Indosuez, said.

Many economists had expected the government to use the greater freedom attained by widening ERM fluctuation bands to 15 per cent from 2.25 per cent to slash rates and help slow the rise in unemployment, currently at 11.6 per cent of the workforce.

But unlike Britain, which hiked back interest rates when the

pound was driven out of the ERM last September, France says monetary convergence with Germany remains its prime goal.

The Bank of France's balancing act is all the more difficult because it needs to rebuild its reserves after buying francs in July in a bid to prop up the currency and because investors are split on whether rate cuts are good or bad for the franc.

The central bank must sell at least 140 billion francs (\$23.5 billion) and probably more, to recoup its reserves.

Some economists say Prime Minister Edouard Balladur, currently on holiday, will cut key interest rates by up to three percentage points to around four per cent to boost economic growth, which could lure foreign investment and aid the franc.

One said big cuts were likely by mid-September, when parliament and industrialists return after the summer break.

Others said such a drastic U-turn would harm confidence in the government and so under-

mine the franc. Interest rates need to fall gently as Germany, too, has room to ease, they say.

Economy Minister Edmond Alphandery broke into his vacation to tell Liberation daily Saturday that the ERM rejig did not mean the stable franc policy had been abandoned.

"The course of French policy will be maintained," he said. "Worrying short-sightedness," the influential daily Le Monde said in its Sunday edition.

It said the government should look for other ways to bind Europe together and use its new currency freedom to sort out its domestic economic problems.

The tight money policy has kept the franc at around 3.50 per mark — less than two per cent below where it was 10 days ago. Investors on the Paris Bourse, which closed at a all-time high Friday on hopes for rate cuts to boost industry, took profits on Monday morning. The CAC-40 index lost 0.7 per cent to 2,149.70.

Kohl raises doubts about timing of single EC currency

BONN (R) — Chancellor Helmut Kohl has for the first time raised doubts whether the European Community (EC) will achieve its goal of creating a single currency by 1999.

But in a television interview he made clear he had lost none of his enthusiasm for European union, saying that only in a united continent could wars such as the conflict in former Yugoslavia be prevented.

Commenting for the first time in public on the turbulence on currency markets that forced a major reorganisation of the Community's exchange rate mechanism (ERM) last week, Mr. Kohl said the real problem was the failure of EC countries to put their public finances in order.

He called for rigid adherence to the so-called "convergence" criteria laid down in the Maastricht treaty on European union which obliges EC countries to cut inflation, budget deficits and debt before they can join a monetary union.

"We must on no account ease the very strict conditions for national economies, for the budget and debt situation, but must maintain the strict measures and commitments of the Maastricht treaty," Mr. Kohl said.

"If this has the consequence... that the timetable now envisaged is delayed by one or two years — and I don't know this, nobody knows this — then I ask: What does that change in the basic course?"

The treaty envisages the creation of a single currency and a European central bank in three stages by 1997 or 1999.

Mr. Kohl's remarks in a television interview filmed while he was on holiday in Austria were the first indication that he believed there might be some slippage in the Maastricht targets.

This would not be the result of the currency tensions themselves, which were nothing new, but of

the lack of convergence between EC economies, he told SAT-1 television.

The timing of economic and monetary union or of the admission of new members from eastern Europe was less important than the fact that Maastricht represented the decisive breakthrough towards European unity. "The important thing is that something is happening in this decade which, after two world wars, no-one would have considered possible in the previous 90 years of this century — that it is possible to really build this Europe," he said.

Speaking of the "powerful attractiveness and magnetism of the European idea," Mr. Kohl said preventing wars was his main motive for seeking European union.

"War in Europe can only be avoided through European union. Therefore the political union of Europe is the most important thing of all," he said.

Mr. Kohl said he was optimistic EC leaders would choose Frankfurt, home of Germany's independent Bundesbank, to host the new European central bank and its precursor, the European Monetary Institute, at a special summit in October.

Germany did not host any other significant EC institutions, the mark was the leading European currency and Germany had a tradition of a politically independent central bank.

"It is really obvious that the seat of the European central bank should be in Germany. All my colleagues understand this, although there is some resistance — but where else should it go?" he said.

Mr. Kohl defended the Bundesbank's handling of the latest ERM crisis, saying it had fully fulfilled its obligations and enjoyed the full support of his government.

Survey: Western expatriates get fewer but better perks than Asians

HONG KONG (AFP) — Western expatriates get fewer executive perks than their Asian counterparts, but their net value is higher, according to survey.

On average, the new breed of Asian manager is likely to receive company-paid housing, taxes, schools fees, car, stock options, club fees, travel allowance and various types of insurance,

according to a survey conducted by the Hong Kong-based Far Eastern Economic Review (FEER).

The survey, to be published in FEER's Aug. 12 issue, was based on replies from more than 3,000 executives in 10 countries.

But while the Western expatriates did not get as many perks, their value was higher, averaging

\$147,000 per annum, compared with \$106,000 for Asian expatriates and \$83,000 for local managers.

Among Asian nationals, Hong Kong Chinese managers are best off, bringing home paychecks worth \$137,000. The only other managers, averaging six figures are Japanese (\$116,000) and Singapore (\$101,000).

Oman reports rise in oil, gas reserves

ABU DHABI (AFP) — New discoveries and reappraisal of existing field have boosted Oman's oil and gas reserves despite record production in 1992, the official Omani news agency has reported.

The oil reserves of the Oman Oil Development Company, which controls most of the Gulf state's hydrocarbons, rose by 508 million barrels to a record 4.6 billion barrels at the end of 1992, the agency said.

Gas reserves increased by 4.5 trillion cubic feet (135 billion cubic metre) to 16.8 trillion cubic feet (504 billion cubic metre), it said.

Most of the increases came from the Yibal, Berek and Siyala fields, which also included large quantities of associated and natural gas.

The increase in oil reserves was almost double Oman's crude output of around 690,000 barrels per day in 1992, the highest level since the country began producing oil nearly a decade ago.

"The company continued its programmes in 1992 to assign areas, where the extraction of hydrocarbons could be upgraded with the aim of developing such resources in the sultanate in the long-run," the agency said.

Kyrgyz president sees \$500 million in new Western loans

MOSCOW (R) — Kyrgyzstan, which has forged ahead of its Central Asia neighbours in dismantling the communist system and establishing democracy, expects new western loans of \$500 million in 1994, President Askar Akayev has said.

Mr. Akayev told Reuters the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank would provide most of the funds. He said Kyrgyzstan received \$350 million in Western loans this year.

"The funds we will get in 1994 will include soft loans from Japan and the United States," he added. He gave no breakdown.

The mountainous Central Asian republic of 4.5 million people became eligible for IMF money when it became a member last September and introduced tough belt-tightening.

Kyrgyzstan became the first ex-Soviet state this year to use the IMF's systemic transformation facility providing balance of payments support in the transition from communism to capitalism.

Kyrgyzstan suffered a painful break with the rouble after dumping the currency in May and introducing its own som unit.

The currency change triggered economic turmoil in the landlocked republic. Neighbouring Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan, fearing an inflationary influx of roubles, stopped bank transfers and restricted the flow of goods across their borders with Kyrgyzstan.

Struggling industries have found themselves unable to buy raw materials, many of which come from other republics. The som became unpopular despite government pledges that it would be backed with hard currency reserves.

Mr. Akayev said close economic ties among former Soviet states meant the Commonwealth of Independent States must be kept alive.

He said he was against the idea of a Slavic union floated by Russia, Belarus and Ukraine last month to replace the CIS.

"All CIS countries should aim for economic union without Slavic or Muslim divisions," he said.

"(Russian President Boris) Yeltsin has a big interest in Central Asia," he said. "I think our Central Asia region cannot live without Russia, and Russia cannot live without us."

Saudis line up raw sugar supplies from Australia

BRISBANE, Australia (AFP) — Australia's sugar industry may become a multi-million dollar supplier of raw sugar to Saudi Arabia by 1995, according to the Queensland Sugar Corp. (QSC).

The Saudis are planning to build their first sugar refinery — a 500,000 tonne capacity facility — at Jeddah on the Red Sea later this year.

QSC chief executive David Rutledge said that sugar producers in Queensland, where all the Australia's sugar is grown, would seek to secure export contracts for 40 to 60 per cent of that 500,000 tonnes.

Analysts say that at current sugar prices of 300 Australian

dollars (\$204) a tonne, the contracts would be worth between 60 and 90 million dollars (\$40-\$61 million).

Savola, a food processing, packaging and dairy produce company, is the principal shareholder and manager of the Saudi project.

Mr. Rutledge said the project represented an exciting market opportunity the Queensland raw sugar industry was well placed to take advantage of.

"This project is the world's first port refinery to be built in more than two decades, and will require large shipments of good quality raw sugar supplied at a competitive price, which is exact-

ly what Queensland can offer," Mr. Rutledge said. "It's still early days but what has become very clear is that their requirements as a buyer and ours as a seller are very nicely matched."

The berth at Jeddah port was designed to receive large vessels carrying more than 50,000 tonnes of raw sugar to assist in reducing the refinery's freight costs, he said.

"Lucinda Bulk Sugar Terminal, in north Queensland, already has the capacity to load vessels of up to 50,000 tonnes and the Townsville Port Authority has proposed changes to the sugar berth so that ships of this size can also be accommodated," Mr. Rutledge said.

S. Korea may fall short of economic growth target

SEOUL (AFP) — South Korea's economy is so sluggish the country is unlikely to achieve what it views as a modest economic growth of five per cent this year, government economists say.

The so-called new economy policy launched by South Korean President Kim Young-Sam's government in March aimed at quickly stimulating the nation's stagnant economy and achieving at least six per cent growth this year and seven per cent in 1994.

The plan is "not working well," according to a government think tank, the Korea Development Institute (KDI).

KDI made the damning statement following consultations last week with experts from the nation's three major economic research institutes.

South Korea's economic growth rate was 3.3 per cent in the first quarter, followed by 4.5 per cent in the second quarter, with the government aiming for

an ambitious seven per cent growth in the second half of the year.

However, economists agree quick economic recovery is unlikely this year due largely to meagre rises in exports coupled with stagnant domestic consumption.

Economists attribute anaemic consumption to a sweeping anti-graft campaign launched by Mr. Kim immediately after taking office five months ago, resulting in the arrest and dismissal of corrupt officials.

Under such circumstances, a rapid improvement in sluggish investment in plant and equipment is unlikely, they said. However, the government continues to urge industrialists to invest new money to speedily stimulate the economy and back growth.

"Industrialists are in no mood to make new investment with uncertain economic prospects,"

one economist said. Deputy Premier and Economic Planning Minister Lee Kyung-Shik admitted business leaders are taking a "wait-and-see attitude" towards investment because of "misgivings and suspicions" about Mr. Kim's economic policy.

At a weekend breakfast meeting, Mr. Lee told Korea Chamber of Commerce and Industry President Kim Sang-Ha and a dozen other business leaders the government will not force the nation's 30 top business conglomerates, or chaebols, to shed small subsidiaries.

The move was proposed as means of streamlining the diversified chaebols into two or three core businesses to make them internationally competitive.

Any "specialisation" programme would be carried out on the companies' initiatives without government meddling, Mr. Lee said.

Mr. Lee assured business leaders the government's fair trade investigation of suspected insider trading among chaebol subsidiaries, as well as the government's move to restrict cross-investment and mutual loan guarantees among subsidiaries would be toned down.

He said the government would bring forward public infrastructure projects, including construction of a multi-billion-dollar international airport at Yongjong island off Incheon and a new high-speed train line between Seoul and Pusan in an effort to create a favourable investment environment.

Mr. Lee said the second stage of the government's money rate liberalisation programme would "definitely" be implemented during the second half of the year to pressure market interest rates lower and further stimulate investment.

China warns of widening farm-city income gap

PEKING (R) — China has warned of the widening gap between the country's 208 million urban rich and 900 million rural poor and says farming must be made more profitable.

Agriculture Minister Liu Jiang cited the mounting economic struggles of China's farmers in an interview with the semi-official China News Service.

"The biggest problem in China's agriculture is how it has fallen behind industry," he said in a report seen in Peking Monday.

"Purchase prices for farm goods are low, while farm inputs are more expensive. The profitability of farming is declining and farmers are losing their motivation."

In the four decades since the communist revolution, annual industrial growth had been as much as four times as fast as agricultural growth and the gap was growing, he said.

Taikang county, Henan province's top grain-producing area,

vividly illustrates Chinese farmers' plight.

Since 1984, the costs of fertilizer, pesticide, fuel and plastic sheeting had risen 92 per cent but the price of grain had increased only 59 per cent, a Taikang official said in a letter in Sunday's official Economic Daily.

"The government must give preferential financial and other policies to agriculture," the official said.

Another burden for farmers is heavy taxation and the likelihood of being paid in IOUs for their produce.

Excessive levies for road-building in Sichuan province sparked several days of rioting by farmers earlier this year.

The official China Daily said Monday that Peking was trying to reduce grain payments by IOUs, but that this year's bumper harvest was straining China's cash resources and some farmers were still being forced to accept hard-

to-cash chits.

Local Agriculture Bank branches, which buy contracted amounts of farmers' yields at officially controlled prices, have been accused of squandering cash for grain purchases on real estate and stock market speculation.

Mr. Liu said his ministry had received authorisation to ban more than 50 kinds of taxes and levies.

"The average annual income of farmers last year was 784 yuan (\$136)," he said. "For them to reach the reasonable level of 1,200 (\$210), the incomes must grow faster than that of urban residents for the next seven years."

This is unlikely to happen, analysts say.

The 784-yuan figure is a 10.6 per cent increase over the 1991 income, while the average income of urban residents last year rose 18.2 per cent to 1,826 yuan (\$320).

This year the imbalance between the thriving cities and the stagnant countryside has worsened, according to official figures. And Mr. Liu said rising living standards were creating demand for quality foods that the nation's farmers were often unable to meet.

"We must raise the prestige of agriculture and the appreciation of it at all levels of the government," he said.

No less a figure than patriarch Deng Xiaoping is said to have reminded China of the perils of neglecting agriculture in remarks carried in all major newspapers Monday.

"Comrade Deng Xiaoping reminds us that if problems arise in China in the 1990s, the greatest likelihood is that they will be agriculture," Communist Party chief Jiang Zemin was quoted as telling visiting journalists.

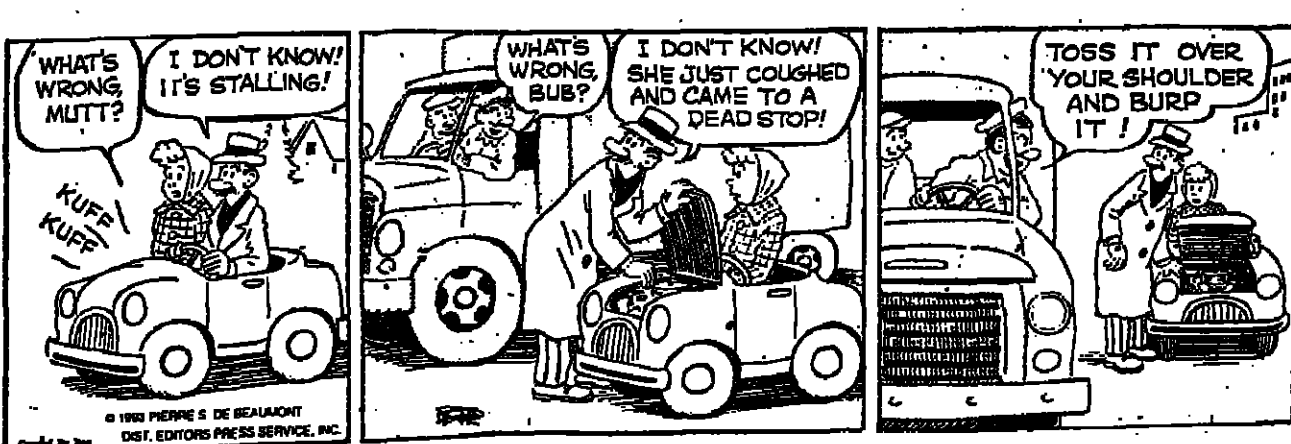
Peanuts



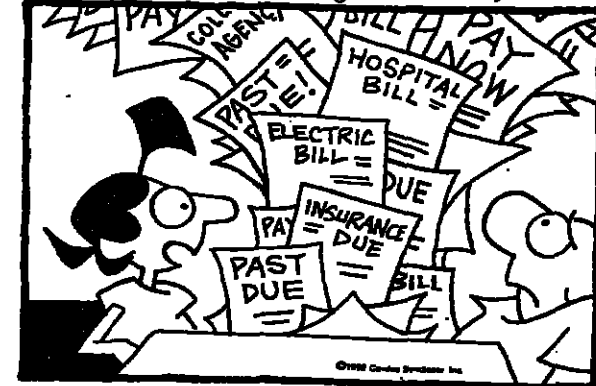
Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



"We married for better or worse, for richer or poorer. When do we get the better and richer part?"

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

HUTEC

LOXET

NECCIS

CREBIK

Answer here: _____

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumble: BURST PROBE SMOKE SALUTE

Answer: What did they call the cat that fell into the pickle barrel? — A "SOUR PUSS"

HOROSCOPE NOT RECEIVED

THE Daily Crossword by Frances Burton

ACROSS

1 Muses

3 Blueprints

10 "The Censor"

14 Honolulu is here

15 Baseball's Hank

16 Designer

17 Revolutionary

19 America

20 Tarzan

21 Columnist

22 Worn out

24 Buddies

25 Redwood, e.g.

26 White surgeon

28 Black eyes

32 Mine and Patron

33 "For All

34 Gravy or steam

35 Bigger State

37 Hurl

38 Kimono

39 Soviet feature

40 Unemployed

41 — menigque pie

42 Well-groomed

43 Kind of shrub

44 Lulus

45 — do-well

46 East Indian tree

47 Juncurens

48 Rackets

51 Contabulate

54 Plant

55 Adhesive strip

58 Raines or Logan

59 Kind of scout

60 Bay of the Black

61 Like a bump

62 Tip

63 Woman

DOWN

1 Ear part

2 James — Carter

3 — wonderful

4 Bright star

5 Bribery

6 Grassy areas

7 Melody

8 Negative prefix

9 Mocking

10 Work

11 "You can't

12 Pupa or Sibley

13 Double curve

14 Hauls

15 Bog

16 Cover's item

17 Scotch

18 Cry out loud

19 Inventor Howe

20 Larva

21 Photographer's

22 House d-motions

23 Shoe

24 Footless

25 Legal right

26 Sports stadium

27 Handles with

28 Shiner Gurnee

29 Tether

30 Command to a

U.N. moves onto Sarajevo heights

SARAJEVO (R) — United Nations troops moved on to mountain heights around Sarajevo Monday while Serb forces were reported to be pulling back from positions they captured last week.

About 150 French soldiers began a reconnaissance mission on Mount Igman to monitor the withdrawal of the Serbs — something the Bosnian government has insisted on if it is to continue peace talks that resume Monday in Geneva.

Bosnian government-controlled Sarajevo Radio reported that Bosnian Serb forces had begun withdrawing from Mount Igman on Sunday evening.

The radio quoted the Muslim-led army defending the capital as saying "in the evening hours Sunday combat stopped and the aggressor's material and men began withdrawing."

The army press centre was quoted as saying "the Serb offensive" had continued through Sunday as commanders of the opposing armies negotiated with the U.N. in Sarajevo on terms for the handover of mountain positions.

Serb Commander General Ratko Mladic agreed to a phased withdrawal of his troops starting Monday with a joint reconnaissance of Mount Igman, which controls the Muslim-led army's only known supply route in and out of the capital.

The deal appeared designed to show some sign of movement on withdrawal ahead of the resumption of the Geneva talks and to ward off possible air strikes against the Serbs.

"Its phased nature would leave

U.N. troops side by side with Serbs on Igman, making it harder for NATO warplanes to strike at their positions with confidence.

The U.N. military spokesman in Sarajevo, Barry Frewer, said the U.N. troops would provide an account of the situation on Mount Igman for the U.N. Bosnia commander, General Francis Briquemont, and the negotiators in Geneva.

"We intend later this morning to give a first-hand report not only to General Briquemont here, but it will also be given to Geneva so that they will have a picture on the ground that they can bring to the table for negotiations," Major Frewer said.

He added: "If we continue with negotiations we trust there will be no need for air strikes."

NATO ambassadors were meeting later Monday in Brussels to discuss whether to bomb the Serbs — an issue that has split the Atlantic alliance and aroused fears of retaliation against U.N. forces on the ground.

Monday's talks were expected to be long and hard and may not even result in a concrete decision.

"I don't think everything will be wrapped up today. There's a lot to discuss and we could have another meeting before any big announcements," a U.S. diplomatic source told Reuters.

The leader of the Bosnian Serbs, Radovan Karadzic, said the threat of air strikes was harming prospects for the latest round of talks in Geneva because the Muslim side was being encouraged to believe that it was worth fighting on.

"The future of the Geneva

talks depends on the Muslim delegation and whether they are serious about those talks or not," Mr. Karadzic told Reuters Television before leaving Belgrade for Geneva.

"Those threats of air strikes do not help these talks because the Muslim side is encouraged not to talk and to continue the war."

Also underway Monday was an initial United Nations reconnaissance of two new access routes for Sarajevo proposed by Mr. Karadzic last Thursday, Maj. Frewer said.

One heads northwest from Sarajevo to Zenica and the other leads southwest from the capital in the direction of the Adriatic coast.

Once the routes have been checked for mines and other obstacles, they would then be opened for U.N. troops and aid convoys.

Then, if confidence on all sides is established, the routes would be opened for commercial traffic.

Finally, there would be a stage when civilian traffic would be allowed, but that was clearly a long way in the future.

Despite the apparent progress in Sarajevo, radio reports and the United Nations said there was no let-up in fighting on other Bosnian battlefronts, with clashes reported from Mostar in the south-west to Maglaj in the north.

Meanwhile a severely wounded five-year-old girl was flown out of the Bosnian capital of Sarajevo Monday for treatment in Britain, witnesses said.

The girl, Irma Hadzimuratovic, carried aboard a British Hercules

transport plane at the U.N.-controlled airport. It then taxied and lifted off for a flight to Ancona, Italy, where she was to be transferred to an air ambulance flight to Britain.

The armoured ambulance had taken Irma right to the loading door of Royal Air Force plane after driving from the Sarajevo hospital where she had been treated in desperate conditions since being wounded in a Serb mortar bomb attack on July 30.

Two Canadian women medical staff attended the girl, who has become a symbol of Sarajevo's suffering.

A special cot stood ready inside the Hercules, which is also known as a C140 and is the workhorse of many Western air forces and much used on aid flights to Sarajevo.

In a separate development, Serbian separatists opened fire briefly with artillery at strategic Maslenica Bay in southern Croatia Monday, Croatian radio reported.

It said the shelling came as workmen were making repairs to a pontoon bridge there damaged by Serbian fire a week ago after the Croatian army failed to hand the zone over to the U.N. Protection Force as scheduled in a mid-July Serbian-Croatian peace agreement.

In Knin, capital of the self-proclaimed Serb Republic of Krajina which covers a quarter of Croatia, armed forces chief Mile Novakovic said Croatian artillery opened fire Monday on Gracac, 60 kilometres from Knin. The general gave no details.



Three new female cabinet ministers speak to reporters after their appointment to the cabinet of Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa, at the prime minister's official residence Monday. From left to right are Education Minister Ryoko Akamatsu;

Wakako Hironaka, director-general of the Environment Agency; and Manae Kubota, director-general of the Economic Planning Agency (AFP photo)

Women get record number of posts in new Tokyo cabinet

TOKYO (AFP) — Japan's Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa appointed three women Monday to head the ministries of education, economic planning and the environment, a record number of female posts for a Japanese cabinet.

The aristocrat premier said earlier he wanted to add "as much colour as possible" to the seven-party coalition government, the country's first since 1948, by appointing women and outsiders who are not members of parliament.

Ryoko Akamatsu, who was appointed as education minister, is both. At 63, the former Labour Ministry bureaucrat has worked in advancing women's affairs at the United Nations in New York as well as serving as Japan's ambassador to Uruguay.

Manae Kubota, a 63-year-old veteran socialist feminist member of the upper house who was appointed as director general of the Economic Planning Agency, has also worked in the Labour Ministry as well as the U.N. in New York.

The new director general of the environment agency, Wakako

Hironaka, is a 59-year-old upper-house member of the Buddhist-backed Komeito Party, who used to live in the United States and has mainly been involved in education issues.

Ms. Akamatsu told a news conference that she accepted Mr. Hosokawa's offer to become education minister "because I'm impressed by the prime minister's idea that women should take part in policy-making."

"I'm nervous but not very much because I'm cheeky," she said.

Ms. Akamatsu played a key role enacting a law for equal job opportunities for Japanese women when she served as director general of the Labour Ministry's women's bureau.

While working at the ministry, she claims to have beaten a male colleague during a drinking competition.

In 1986, she became Japan's second ever woman ambassador when she was appointed as envoy to Uruguay.

Ms. Akamatsu reportedly supports the role of Japan's rising flag in the nation's schools. Moves to raise the flag at school

ceremonies have attracted widespread criticism from across Japan in recent years.

Ms. Kubota, the new Socialist head of the economic planning agency, said she hoped to promote a more consumer-oriented society during her term.

"I'm nervous because this is my very first experience," she said. "I will try to do my best."

Ms. Kubota, who has also worked promoting women's affairs with the U.N. in Vienna, noted that it was "unheard of" to have three women ministers in a Japanese cabinet. "But everything should be like this," she said.

Ms. Hironaka, the new environment agency chief, said she would consider the possibility of introducing environmental taxes during her term.

The wife of Hirotsugu Hironaka, a well-known Japanese mathematician, said she was "very proud" of her appointment. "I'm all braced up," she said.

Former Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu had appointed two women as cabinet members in 1990, the previous record.

S. African townships death toll soars to 220

JOHANNESBURG (R) — The death toll in 10 days of violence in South Africa's black townships rose to at least 220 Monday after more than 60 people were burned, shot or hacked to death over the weekend.

Fifty-one people were killed in township violence east of Johannesburg despite the arrival of thousands of troops to bolster hard-pressed police.

Police said they included six shot dead at a party in Daveyton, five men whose bodies were found in a blazing car in Vosloorus and a man killed when a grenade exploded in his pocket in Katlehong.

At least 13 people were killed in Natal province at the weekend, seven of them in clashes between African National Congress (ANC) and Inkatha Freedom

Party (IFP) supporters in Bhebezi township near Durban. Soldiers and police were searching for arms in Johannesburg's eastern townships Monday but after several hours police said they had discovered only one home-made gun, a teargas grenade, a pile of marijuana and two illegal immigrants.

Peace monitors said searches began at dawn in Vosloorus and the neighbouring townships of Katlehong and Tokoza, focus of unrest sweeping South Africa since last month's announcement of next April 27 as the date for the first all-race election.

The ANC and its allies said they were setting up a joint operational centre to try to help restore order to the townships around South Africa's commercial capital.

"It's a very sad situation. We want bring to to book those perpetrating the violence," ANC spokesman Carl Niehaus told Reuters.

Police said the sporadic nature of the violence made it difficult to curb.

Township warfare is threatening South Africa's transition to democracy from 350 years of white domination.

Zulu chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi's IFP and the ANC, whose war has claimed more than 9,000 lives during three years of apartheid reforms, have both cautiously welcomed the arrival of the troops following police failure to stop the violence.

The ANC and many residents say the white-led police, former enforcers of apartheid, lack the credibility and trust needed to bring peace to black communi-

ties.

Inkatha officials were meeting Monday to discuss the prospects of the Zulu-based party rejoining multi-party democracy talks.

But a spokesman said it was unlikely a decision would be made before Saturday.

Inkatha and the KwaZulu homeland, of which Mr. Buthelezi is chief minister, walked out of the talks along with a right-wing group after the election date was set on July 2.

"There certainly will be no return by the IFP to negotiations this week," Inkatha negotiator Walter Feigat told Reuters.

Mr. Buthelezi, who is demanding virtual autonomy in a federal South Africa, said last week the country would be plunged into civil war if he was forced to accept a draft constitution for a future democratic South Africa.

U.S. diplomat shot dead in Georgia

TBILISI, Georgia (R) — A U.S. diplomat was shot dead in Georgia Sunday night as the head of national leader Eduard Shevardnadze's security guard was driving him to the capital Tbilisi.

Security officials said the diplomat, named by the embassy as Fred Woodruff, was hit in the forehead by a single bullet fired through the windshield of the Russian Niva car.

He died on the spot and the unidentified gunman fled.

Mr. Shevardnadze's personal security chief Eldar Gugladze, who was driving the car, escaped unhurt in the attack at the village of Natakhtari, 10 kilometres from the capital.

The shooting occurred after dark at around 9.30 p.m. on a

road often roamed by armed groups. It was not clear if there was any political motive for the attack or if Mr. Woodruff, 45, was the latest victim of a string of attacks by Tbilisi criminal gangs.

While Georgian forces have been fighting a war against separatists in the Black sea region of Abkhazia for the last year, large numbers of guns have fallen into the hands of criminal and political groups.

Mr. Shevardnadze, announcing the killing during a regular radio broadcast, said it showed firm security measures were needed to curb violence in the former Soviet Transcaucasian republic.

"Order must be restored in the country," he said. "This is to-

day's most important task... even if we must temporarily restrict our democratic achievements to save democracy."

The killing was a particular blow to Mr. Shevardnadze who is seeking U.S. support in reviving his country's economy now that a Russian-brokered peace deal appears to be holding in Abkhazia.

A U.S. embassy spokesman described Mr. Woodruff as a regional affairs officer who had been due to return home in the next couple of days at the end of a temporary assignment.

He was married, with children.

The spokesman described the killing as "senseless and tragic". He could give no details or explanation of the attack.

Dozens of loony fliers take to the air. Briefly.

BOGNOR REGIS, England (AP) — Dozens of people in odd getups jumped off piers Sunday, challenging gravity and giving new meaning to the term British eccentricity. The Birdman Rally at the south coast seaside resort of Bognor Regis has been drawing daredevils for 21 years, but this summer it had competition from an equally loony rally in Eastbourne, on the Sussex coast in southeast England. Eastbourne attracted 50,000 sightseers compared with 5,000 to 6,000 at Bognor. However, experienced Bognor jumpers got the distance. Hang-glider Antonio Madonia, from Freiburg, Germany, skimmed over the sea for 66.6 metres (73 yards) to win the £1,000 (\$1,500) prize at the Bognor event. At Eastbourne, local woodworm exterminator Darrin Powell, 28, managed just 15 metres (16 yards) in his flying beetle to take the £300 (\$450) top prize. Anyone who thinks the British are stiff and conventional should have had a look at Bognor, where 30 intrepid souls hurled themselves off the pier with, or without their contraptions. In honour of the 21st birthday of the event, one competitors was decked out as a birthday cake with a parachute on top. Inmates from Ford Prison entered a bi-plane called Easy Bird II but the pilot, Dean Connor, hit the water with a crunch.

Alleged master art thief arrested

MADRID (AP) — Police have arrested a Belgian man they say is one of Europe's master art thieves, who once escaped custody by shimmying down a bed sheet and hailing a taxi in his pajamas. Rene Alphonse Van Der Bergher, alias Erik the Belgian, was arrested on Aug. 5 in Malaga, one of Spain's popular Mediterranean vacation spots. The Spanish daily El Pais reported Sunday. He was being held in an area hospital for unspecified health reasons. Belgian authorities are seeking extradition of Mr. Van Der Bergher for his alleged involvement in the theft of 26 enameled art works worth more than 20 million francs (\$3.4 million) from the L'Eneche Municipal Museum in Limoges, France, in December 1980. El Pais said. A police statement described Mr. Van Der Bergher as "the mastermind behind various international networks dedicated to the theft and illicit trafficking of art works." Mr. Van Der Bergher was arrested in Barcelona in 1982 and transferred to a Madrid hospital because of his diabetes. As a result of his detention, police recovered a large quantity of art stolen from various parts of Western Europe, including pieces from Spanish hermitages, museums, churches and cathedrals. El Pais said. He soon escaped, however, by climbing down a bed sheet to the street, then driving off in a cab. He was later picked up at a police checkpoint. El Pais did not say whether he has ever been convicted of any art-related crime.

Brazil's mahogany threatened with extinction

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — Smugglers haul a million cubic metres of mahogany out of the Amazon rain forest every year, robbing the government of \$1.2 billion yearly, environmentalists said Sunday. At that rate, Brazil's groves of mahogany will be gone in 32 years, said Latin American greenpeace supervisor Jose Augusto Padua. Most smugglers operate out of the state of Para. More than 70 per cent of Amazon mahogany lies there. The culprit, according to greenpeace, are the state's 3,500 sawmills, which have destroyed virgin forest by opening 3,000 roads into Indian and government reserves. Rubber Tappers Union spokesman Clodio Rodrigues said, "the smugglers leave a trail of devastation behind them. They are killing the rain forest. The sawmills legally declare only 5 per cent of the lumber shipped from the mid-Amazon port capital, Manaus, and the ports of Santos and Paranaguá on Brazil's southern coastline."

British butterfly believed extinct

LONDON (R) — The large tortoiseshell is believed to have become the fifth species of British butterfly to become extinct in the past 150 years, the Sunday Times newspaper said. Around half of Britain's 59 species of butterfly are considered endangered because of loss of habitat, pollution and modern farming methods. The large tortoiseshell, which had orange and brown markings, was spotted only once last year. "We have heard nothing this year. I think it is finished," said butterfly expert Martin Warren. The last butterfly species to become extinct in Britain was the large blue in 1979.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Pope leaves for trip to America

ROME (AP) — Pope John Paul II Monday departed on the 60th foreign trip of his papacy, a voyage that will take him to Jamaica, Mexico and Denver, Colorado. A special Alitalia Boeing 747 took off at 1045 GMT on the scheduled 10 hour, 50 minutes flight to Kingston, Jamaica, the first stop of his week-long trip. He planned to spend two nights there before flying to Mexico's Yucatan peninsula. On Thursday, Pope John Paul travels to Denver, where he will celebrate World Youth Day and meet with U.S. President Bill Clinton. The pontiff arrives back in Rome on Aug. 16.

Bombs hit Angolan rebel capital

SAO TOME (R) — The Angolan rebel movement UNITA said Monday that a week of bombing by government jets had wounded hundreds of women and children in its capital Huambo, but gave no death toll. But UNITA radio, monitored in the nearby island state Sao Tome and Principe, said rebel forces had killed dozens of government soldiers in several battles in the western province of Kwanza South. The radio said government planes dropped six large bombs and fired hundreds of rockets on Huambo, a city of 500,000 people in the central highlands. Sunday. It quoted Nataniel Chimukua, director of Huambo's main hospital, as saying 560 victims of the bombing had been admitted, most of whom were young children. Most were suffering from burns and shrapnel wounds and many required amputation, he said, without giving details of deaths caused by the air raids.

IRA's revolutionary wing wants arms

BELFAST (R) — The IRA's revolutionary wing on Monday demanded police permission for its politicians to be armed after the son of a Sinn Fein councillor was shot dead by Protestant extremists. The Ulster Freedom Fighters, an outlawed group fighting to keep Northern Ireland British, admitted responsibility for killing Sean Lavery, 21, shot dead Sunday night when gunmen raked the family home with 30 shots. His father, Sinn Fein councillor Bobby Lavery, was warned by police 10 days ago he could be a target but they rejected his plea to be armed. Republican sources said it was the 10th attack this year by Protestant extremists on members of Sinn Fein, the political wing of the Irish Republican Army battling to oust Britain from Northern Ireland. The police declined to comment on demands by Sinn Fein for their representatives to have personal protection weapons. They have been rejected in the past because of Sinn Fein's links with the IRA.

Cambodian leaders to visit Thailand

PHNOM PENH (R) — Cambodian co-presidents Hun Sen and Prince Norodom Ranariddh will visit Thailand this week to discuss border problems, Vice-Information Minister Ek Sereyath said Monday. Cambodia's interim government has expressed concern at what it sees as Bangkok's support for Khmer Rouge guerrillas based along Cambodia's northern border. "The co-presidents will be in Thailand for three days... to discuss with (Thai Prime Minister) Chuan Leekpa a ban on the export of timber and precious stones and some border problems," Mr. Sereyath told Reuters. The U.N. Security Council authorised an embargo on the export of unprocessed timber and gems as a means of putting pressure on the Khmer Rouge to comply with the 1991 Cambodia peace accord that led to U.N.-sponsored elections last month. But U.N. peacekeepers have been unable to enforce the ban in the Khmer Rouge-occupied zones.

Typhoon approaches S. Korea

SEOUL (R) — South Korea said Monday it would evacuate south coast resorts in readiness for a typhoon that has already claimed at least one life. State radio said one person was killed and three were missing when high waves swept them from a beach on the southern island of Cheju Sunday. "Interior Minister Lee Hae-Koo ordered provincial government officials to evacuate visitors from threatened resort areas until typhoon Robin has passed," a National Anti-Disaster Relief Centre official said. Unusually heavy rain was blamed for a series of bad traffic accidents Sunday which killed 32 people and injured 811, the national police administration said. All boats, including fishing boats, have been ordered into anchorage.

Nagasaki mayor urges nuclear ban treaty

TOKYO (AFP) — Nagasaki Mayor Hitoshi Motoshima called Monday for an international treaty banning nuclear weapons, during a "peace declaration" marking the 48th anniversary of the atomic bombing of his city. The nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) was "not aimed at the abolition of nuclear weapons," Mr. Motoshima was quoted as saying in a speech. "We must conclude an international treaty that totally bans nuclear test and nuclear weapons," he added. Three days earlier at a ceremony to mark the bombing of the Japanese city of Hiroshima on Aug. 6, 1945, that city's mayor Takashi Hironaka voiced fears that a total nuclear ban would be thwarted by an indefinite extension of the NPT, which allows nuclear testing among certified nuclear powers.

Former king visits Greece

ATHENS (R) — Former King Constantine paid a surprise visit to Greece Monday for the first time since 1981 and said he would go on a cruise around the Greek islands. "I am very moved to be back home. This is a private visit and I am going to cruise the Greek islands," King Constantine told reporters after arriving in a private jet in the northern city of Salonika. King Constantine has lived in Britain with his family since fleeing Greece in December 1967 after failing to overthrow military junta which seized power in April that year. He was then 27 years old. After the fall of the junta in 1974 Greeks voted overwhelmingly to abolish the monarchy in a referendum. King Constantine lost his throne probably as a result of his refusal to stand up to the colonels.

Australia settles deal with Nauru

NAURU (R) — Australia reached a multi-million dollar compensation deal with the tiny Pacific island state of Nauru Monday, ending a 30-year dispute over environmental damage to the island from phosphate mining. The out-of-court 107 million Australian dollar (\$73 million) settlement was announced by Australian Prime Minister Paul Keating and Nauru President Bernard Dowiyogo. "We have concluded a treaty-level commitment for Nauru to withdraw its ICI (International Court of Justice) case and future claims arising out of Australia's administration of Nauru," Mr. Keating told reporters after meeting with Mr. Dowiyogo. Nauru was governed jointly by Australia, New Zealand and Britain under a United Nations trusteeship until 1947 when Australia took over sole control until independence in 1968. Mr. Keating said Australia, in assuming responsibility for the damage caused by mining, would seek contributions from New Zealand and Britain. Australia, New Zealand and Britain stripped Nauru of its phosphate deposits from 1919 until 1967, leaving the 24-square-kilometre (9.3-square-mile) island pockmarked and inhospitable.

At least 99 die as storm hits Venezuela

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — Venezuelans were in mourning Monday as they began clearing mud and debris from their homes following a devastating tropical storm that killed at least 99 people and left thousands homeless.

Tropical storm Bret was breaking up as it moved off the north-west coast of Colombia Monday, but could gain strength before moving over Central America, the U.S. National Weather Service reported Monday from Miami, Fla.

In the border town of Maicao, in northeastern Colombia, a 22-year-old woman was electrocuted Sunday afternoon when advance winds of the storm hurled an electricity pole and high tension wire onto a house.

The weather service said Colombia discontinued the tropical storm warning for the coastal Guajira peninsula. It said the storm could strengthen as its centre moves over open waters in the southwest Caribbean Monday.

and as much as four more inches of rain could fall in Venezuela and Colombia.

Bret had been expected to pass by Venezuela without much damage, but it struck hard early Sunday with 5 inches (13 centimetres) of rain over a five-hour period.

Mudslides destroyed homes in the shantytowns perched on the hills that surround the main valley of Caracas, and many of the victims were children, said Enrique Aponte, director of the central morgue.

Meanwhile, after temporarily halting inspections of its declared nuclear facilities by the International Atomic Energy Agency, the North has agreed to talk about allowing them to resume.

The proposed inter-Korean inspections would be more thorough. South Korea has insisted on resolving all suspicions about the North's nuclear programme, which the North has said is strictly peaceful.

The North's official Pyongyang Radio, monitored in Tokyo, said in a Korean-language broadcast that since a working-level conference on the Korean nuclear commission is at a stalemate, "resuming the conference would not be the right way to settle the issue."

The most rational, rapid way to settle bilateral issues, including the nuclear problem, is to exchange the highest-level special envoys," it added.

Japan, S. Korea to cooperate on North Korea's nuclear issue

TOKYO (Agencies) — Japan and South Korea agreed Monday to cooperate with each other on the issue of North Korea's suspected nuclear development capability, officials said.

The accord was reached during a telephone conversation between Japanese Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa and South Korean President Kim Young-Sam, they said.

Mr. Hosokawa was quoted as saying in the 10 minute-talks that Japan would continue "close cooperation with South Korea" on the North Korean nuclear issue.

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has asked North Korea to accept its inspections of two plants in Yongbyon, north of Pyongyang, suspected by Western countries of being capable of developing nuclear weapons.

Mr. Kim was quoted as telling

Hosokawa that South Korea and Japan needed full cooperation in preventing North Korea from making nuclear warheads.

North Korea Monday virtually rejected South Korea's proposal for immediately reactivating the nuclear control commission intended to watch over their nuclear arms ban agreement.

The North, which has been suspected of developing nuclear arms, instead reiterated its insistence that high-level envoys from the two sides meet to arrange the first-ever North-South summit talks. This would be the fastest way to solve pending problems, it said.

The South proposed last week that the nuclear commission be reactivated Tuesday. The two sides concluded a nuclear weapons ban pact last year, but talks on implementing it have broken down over disagreements

on inter-Korean inspections.

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The most rational, rapid way to settle bilateral issues, including the nuclear problem, is to exchange the highest-level special envoys," it added.

Graf claims 75th career title

CARLSBAD, California (Agencies) — Top seed Steffi Graf shook off a slow start Sunday to beat second seed Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario 6-4 4-6 6-1 at the \$375,000 Mazda Tennis Classic and notch the 75th title of her career.

The German world number one, who won this tournament in 1988 and 1989, claimed her sixth title of the year, extended her winning streak to 24 matches, and ended the Spaniard's perfect record in three-set matches this year.

The third-ranked Sanchez, who had already split four finals with Graf in 1993, took advantage of the German's shaky start to build a 4-0 first-set lead.

"The first four games I let pass by without knowing really what to do," Graf admitted. "Whatever I did was just the wrong thing."

"At 4-0, already I thought I could catch the 2-40 flight. No joke," she said.

But Graf's mind quickly turned back from the airport to the matter at hand and she ran off the next six games to take the set.

"From 4-0 I started to get into the game," she said. "I started to go for my shots more and played more aggressive."

"I came into this tournament with not overwhelming confidence, but I won and it's a very good feeling," said Graf, who collected 75,000 and a sports car for the win.

Krajicek wins despite shaky start: In Los Angeles Richard Krajicek started out playing like a weekend hacker. Three sets and two breakers later, he was champion of the Volvo-Los Angeles Tournament.

"It's a new approach," he said. "Krajicek recovered from a shaky start Sunday to beat



Michael Chang

Centre on the UCLA campus. "I was happy to win a game," he said.

Krajicek, the defending Volvo champion from the Netherlands, became the first player to repeat as champion since Jimmy Connors in 1973-74.

Chang, the No. 3 seed and world's 10th-ranked player, won just two points on his first serve and was broken three times as Chang raced through the first set in 33 minutes.

"In the beginning I tried a few hard serves, but I just wasn't making any," Krajicek said. "I was disappointed with my forehand. I was shaking it and hitting it in the bottom of the net."

Krajicek finally held serve in the second game of the second set when Chang netted a service return. Krajicek raised his arms in triumph to wild applause from fans at the Los Angeles Tennis

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Mansell gets birthday win

LONDON, New Hampshire, (AFP) — For Britain's Nigel Mansell, winning his fourth IndyCar race of the season was literally a piece of cake.

Mansell celebrated his 40th birthday Sunday by winning his fourth IndyCar race of the season, edging Canada's Paul Tracy and Brazil's Emerson Fittipaldi at the New England 200.

The scene made reality of the image atop a birthday cake prepared earlier in the day for Mansell, his wife Rosanne and children Leo, Greg and Chloe. The cake was decorated with a replica of Mansell's car leading a field of others across a track of icing.

"If you've got to turn 40, this is the way to do it," Mansell said.

Mansell, the pole sitter, zipped past Tracy with three laps remaining and held off a challenge by the Penske-team driver to win by 45-hundredths of a second. Fittipaldi finished third, 8.8 seconds behind Mansell.

"This was pure racing at its best," Mansell said.

Mansell's Lola-Ford had an average speed of 209.447 kilometres per hour over the 1.70 kilometre New Hampshire International Speedway.

Mansell earlier wore a cap with the inscription: "Look 30, act 20, feel like 60, must be 40" and joked about his age.

"I tried to stay 25 as long as I could," he said. "But I have to admit I'm 40. But, of course, I'm happy about it."

Mansell, the reigning Formula One champion, won earlier this season at Australia, Milwaukee and last week at Michigan. The triumph increased Mansell's lead in the IndyCar season points race to 25 points, a 144-119 margin over Fittipaldi. Tracy moved into third with 100 points.

Mansell led the first 400 laps before Tracy Fittipaldi gambled on a lower than normal racing line and found better tire traction. Mansell regained the lead after pit stops but Tracy battled him the rest of the race, finally losing out to an inside pass at the end of the backstretch.

"I've been in some races in the past, wheel-to-wheel at 200 mph with Ayrton Senna and I'll tell you it doesn't even come close to what we've done today," Mansell said. "What you have is traffic and racing through traffic and you have to have discipline out there."

The challenge by Fittipaldi and Tracy kept Mansell working the entire race.

Van Almsick, 15, sets European swimming record with 6 golds

SHEFFIELD (AFP) — Germany's Franziska Van Almsick claimed a sixth gold medal Sunday to become the most successful female competitor in the history of the European Swimming Championships.

The German's achievement was nearly matched by Hungary's triple Olympic champion Kristina Egerszegi, who finished the championship with four golds.

Van Almsick, still only 15, collected her fifth gold medal in Saturday's 4x100m medley relay to equal the record held by four women from the former East Germany, Ute Geweniger, Birgit Meinike, Heike Friedrich and Kristin Otto.

She then set a personal best time of 25.23 seconds to win the 50m freestyle final ahead of Sweden's Linda Olafsson (25.67).

Her sixth gold medal equalled the record at a single championship set by fellow German, Mikael Gross, in Sofia in 1985.

Earlier in the week Van Almsick, who won Olympic bronze and silver medals in Barcelona at the age of 14, won the 100 and 200m freestyle and also picked up golds in the 4x100m and 4x200m freestyle relays.

She also won a silver medal in the 100m butterfly.



Hungary's Kristina Egerszegi on her way to winning a gold medal at the European Swimming Championships (AFP photo)

Van Almsick said after her huge success: "It has not yet sunk in what these six gold medals mean. Experts said I should have got seven, but I don't take these predictions seriously. What surprised me the most was my silver medal in the butterfly — I expected the rest."

The East Berlin-born Van Almsick is a product of the old East German swimming school, who first spotted her talent as a child.

"Without the school I went to as a 10-year-old, I would never have been able to compete like I can now," she says. "And it will be back to school as normal on August 9, the day after the championships in Sheffield."

Unlike previous East German athletes, the youngster can expect huge financial rewards for her gold medal achievements, and

she has already signed big money contracts with a sports clothing firm and a chocolate manufacturer.

Her six-year contract with swimsuit manufacturers Arena will earn her 700,000 marks (\$410,000 dollars).

Egerszegi, who first struck Olympic gold at Seoul in 1988 and then added three more medals four years later in Barcelona, was the other big winner in Sheffield.

The 19-year-old claimed her third gold Sunday by winning the women's 200m butterfly, and then added a fourth when she triumphed in her favourite discipline, the 200m backstroke.

The Hungarian was not the most successful swimmer in the competition, but certainly the most complete.

Like Van Almsick, Egerszegi is a huge star in her homeland, and she also receives generous sponsorship from Swiss sponsors. She said afterwards: "Before the championships, I hoped for three gold medals — the fourth was a bonus."

Finland's Jani Sievinen won the men's 200m medley, setting a new championship record of time 1:59.50.

Sievinen, the world short course holder, was only 0.14 seconds outside the world long course record held by Hungary's Tamas Danyi. In fact it was Danyi's pulling out of this event which caused a surprise at these championships.

Jorg Hoffmann of Germany comfortably won the 1,500m men's freestyle crown in a time of 15:13.31.

Ecuador increases pressure on Brazil

PARIS (AFP) — The prospect of World Cup finals without Brazil moved a step closer Sunday as Ecuador stepped up the pressure on them in Group B of the South American qualifying competition.

A hat-trick from Eduardo Hurtado guided the Ecuadorians to a 5-0 thrashing of Venezuela. Carlos Munoz and Kleber Chala got the other goals that left them two points behind surprise group leaders Bolivia and a point ahead of the Brazilians.

The top two teams from the six nation group will make the trip to the United States next summer.

Bolivia, who inflicted a historic 2-0 defeat on Brazil last month, maintained a 100 percent record by beating Uruguay 3-1 in La Paz.

The Uruguayans were made to pay dearly for a bad foul by defender Alvaro Gutierrez on Marco Etcheverry in the 60th minute. Gutierrez had already picked up a yellow card and the

referee had no option but to give him his marching orders.

Reduced to ten men and playing at an altitude to 3,650m, the Uruguayans were unable to hold out for the final half hour.

Goals from Erwin Sanchez, his fourth in three games, Etcheverry and Milton Melgar in an 11-minute burst killed the game before Enzo Francescoli got a late consolation for the visitors from a free kick two minutes into injury time.

Bolivia's early form has increased the pressure on Brazil who now badly need to win away to Uruguay next weekend.

For Carlos Alberto Pereira, the embattled Brazilian coach who three quarters of the country want sacked, it was a double frustrating night.

Not only did Ecuador and Bolivia win, but he had to watch as his own team squandered a series of chances to bury Mexico in a friendly in Maccio.

Rai, Palhinha and Muller all

wasted golden opportunities.

Marcio Santos finally put the Brazilians ahead in the 48th minute only for the advantage to be cancelled out by a 62nd minute from Aspe after a Ricardo Rocha had brought down Zaguino.

In Group A, Argentina confirmed their status as favourites to clinch the single automatic qualifying place by winning 3-1 away to Paraguay to maintain their lead.

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THE NINE OF SPADES REVISITED

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ Q 8 3
♥ J 7 6
♦ K Q 6 4
♣ 8 4 2

WEST
♠ 10 9 3
♥ 4 3
♦ J 9 7 5
♣ K J 6 5

EAST
♠ K 4
♥ K 9 8
♦ 10 8 3 2
♣ A Q 10 9

SOUTH
♠ A J 7 6 5
♥ A Q 10 5 2
♦ A 7 3
♣ A

The bidding:
South: 1 NT
West: 2 NT
East: 3 NT
South: 4 NT
West: 5 NT
East: 6 NT

Opening lead: Nine of ♠

Most bridge players have long memories. Once they read about a successful play, it enters their memory bank where it rests, lying in wait to strike another blow.

Yesterday's column featured a defensive play by Howard Schenken more than 40 years ago which resulted in breaking a seemingly unbeatable contract. The key element there was the lead of the nine of trumps against a four-spade contract from a holding of 10 9 5.

CONCORD Tel.: 677420 HUDSON HAWK Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.	PLAZA Tel.: 699238 Adel Imam in Wad Sayyed Al Shaghal play (Arabic) Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:00, 8:30	PHILADELPHIA Tel.: 634144 INDOCHINE Shows: 12:30, 3:15, 6:15, 9 p.m.	Nabil Al Mashimi Theatre Tel.: 675571 Coming soon: Fuad Shomaly Abu Fayek In the popular comedy: Al Ilmu Nuron	Nabil & Hisham's Tel.: 625155 AHLAN THEATRE Returns to you Thursday Aug. 26 in the play: Arab Summit Conference
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Sudan says it holding ceasefire

KHARTOUM (Agencies) — The Sudanese government said Monday it was maintaining a ceasefire in the south despite reports of heavy fighting near the Ugandan border.

A senior Foreign Ministry official quoted in the armed forces newspaper *Al-Ghazal* said clashes had occurred when rebels of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) attacked government troops.

But Khartoum was committed to the truce declared by both sides in March as a prelude to peace talks, Gubti Mahdi, head of the Foreign Ministry's political department, said.

The SPLA, led by John Garang, has accused the government of launching an air and ground offensive in Equatoria state in southern Sudan.

Foreign aid agencies have confirmed heavy fighting and say tens of thousands of civilians have fled into Uganda.

Mr. Mahdi said the rebels had forced civilians to leave their homes against their will and were using them as cannon fodder.

An army commander said his troops inflicted heavy losses on rebels who attacked them last week in the southwest, the state news agency SUNA reported Sunday.

Major-General Mohammad Abdul Rahim said, commander of the Bahr Al Ghazal military zone, said rebels of Colonel Garang's faction ambushed a convoy of army vehicles.

"They were routed after suffering heavy losses in material and personnel," Gen. Said was quoted as saying.

He also reported "fierce clashes" between rival SPLA factions northeast of Rumbek.

The government and the SPLA's breakaway United Front will resume peace talks on Aug. 22 in Fashoda, Ahmad Al Raddi Jabir, the head of the parliament's peace committee, told Monday's newspaper.

The two sides met there last weekend and agreed to form a joint committee to ensure peace was maintained in Upper Nile state and relief aid reached the needy.

They will sign a draft agreement on the transport of relief supplies and ensuring the safety of river routes, Mr. Jabir said.

Col. Garang's faction has consistently accused the United Front of fighting alongside government troops.

A spokeswoman for the World Food Programme in Nairobi said Saturday that the fighting between government forces and rebels had forced 100,000 people to flee the region, either into Uganda or into the interior of the country.

Mr. Mahdi told *Al-Ghazal* that the government was committed in principle to the ceasefire despite the "interception... of troops, setting ambushes and laying land mines" by the rebels.

The ceasefire between the government and the SPLA was declared in March to help foster peace talks. The negotiations have made no progress.

The rebels took up arms against the government in 1983, demanding more autonomy for the south and administrative and economic reforms. The fighting and famine have killed at least one million civilians.

Curfew imposed in Chad after clashes kill 41

NDJAMENA (AFP) — The Chad government declared a national dusk to dawn curfew Monday after clashes in the capital between demonstrators and government troops left 41 people dead and 152 wounded.

The capital appeared calm Monday morning following Sunday's clashes in which 203 people were arrested, a police station was ransacked and 25 cars were wrecked, according to authorities.

The clashes occurred early Sunday, outside the city's mosque, when demonstrators from the eastern city of Ouaddai staged a protest against last Wednesday's massacre by armed men in Chokoyan, in the Ouaddai region, in which 82 people died and several were injured.

The protest, in defiance of a government ban, turned violent when police and paramilitary officers fired warning shots in an effort to break up the demonstration. Armed demonstrators fired back and authorities responded with rockets.

Among the 41 victims were four paramilitary and three police officers.

"Public order has been severely shaken" by these clashes, the government said in a press release adding that those arrested would be tried. It also banned any tribal or religious public gatherings.

The government has launched an inquiry into the Chokoyan



VISIT TO DOHA: His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan with Qatari Crown Prince Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani during a two-day visit

Albert accedes to Belgian throne

BRUSSELS (Agencies) — King Albert II acceded to the Belgian throne Monday in an oath-taking ceremony in parliament which was disturbed by a Flemish-speaking deputy shouting "long live the republic."

King Albert, 59, swore allegiance to the nation in a clear, firm voice before a joint session of the senate and chamber of deputies and 100 foreign diplomats, boycotted by Flemish nationalists.

King Albert succeeded his brother, the much-loved King Baudouin, who died of heart failure while on holiday in Spain on July 31 and was buried Saturday.

He became the sixth king of the Belgians since the country won independence from the Netherlands in 1830.

The right-wing deputy Jean-Pierre Van Rossum made his republican cry seconds before the swearing-in began.

Senate Speaker Frans Swaelen immediately rebuked him, to wide-spread applause, and ordered him led out of the chamber.

Queen Fabiola bowed towards the deputies and senators with

her arms crossed in a gesture of thanks.

Mr. Van Rossum, a financier, has had brushes with the law, having been arrested for fraud before the 1991 general election.

His interruption recalls a similar shout made by a French-speaking Walloon deputy Julien Lahaut, who shouted "Vive le Republic" during King Baudouin's inauguration in 1951.

A week later Mr. Lahaut was murdered at his house in a crime that was never been solved.

Wearing the uniform of a lieutenant general, the new king took the oath in the three official languages, French, Dutch and German.

The gesture was significant as many Belgians hope he will be a force for unity. The friction between the relatively prosperous Flanders in north Belgium and the formerly dominant Walloons in the south led to the parliament's adopting a federal structure for the country this year.

Later in the day, the king and Queen Paola, 55, were to attend a ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in the centre of Brussels.

The new royal couple were to also appear before the public on the balcony of the 19th-century palace in the city centre.

The Belgian king holds a largely ceremonial function. His political impact is limited to appointing a mediator to form a new coalition in the wake of a government collapse.

But King Baudouin had great influence behind the scenes as he tried to build the largest possible consensus between Belgium's six million Flemings and four million Walloons.

He died while vacationing in Spain. He and Queen Fabiola were childless, but the passage of the crown to Prince Albert came as a surprise, because many expected Prince Albert's son, Philip, 33, to ascend the throne.

But Prince Philip was not considered ready to take over the job of holding together Belgium's Dutch and French-speaking regions in a single nation.

The official mourning period for King Baudouin ended with Monday's oath-taking, and Prince Albert was cheered as he drove through downtown Brussels on his way to the parliament.

"security zone."

The guerrillas and the government apparently sought to dispel the notion that they were on a collision course. But sources on the two sides, speaking on condition of anonymity, said conflicts were probably inevitable.

"Resignations retracted"

(Continued from page 1)

agreed at the start of the U.S.-brokered peace process in Madrid.

"Mr. Christopher has in his hands a Palestinian document which has not the support of the majority of the Palestinian leadership nor the majority of the Palestinian negotiating team," one senior PLO official said in Tunis.

Mr. Arafat's aides and PLO officials played down talk of resignation.

"I don't believe it," Arafat adviser Bassam Abu Sharif said. "It is baseless," a member of Mr. Arafat's bureau said.

Dr. Ashrawi, the peace team's spokeswoman, was guarded when

asked whether she, Mr. Hussein, overall coordinator of the team, and Dr. Erekat had presented their resignations to Mr. Arafat.

"I am not going to make yet press statements on this matter. That means that there are internal issues which are discussed at the internal level," she said. "We are presenting to our leadership a report... we are discussing with seriousness, responsibility and truthfulness."

She said discussions would continue at least until Tuesday.

Dr. Abdul Shafi, passing through Amman, spoke of signs that Israel could deal directly with the PLO. "There have been unofficial informal contacts with PLO people, so maybe this will be a prelude to having official contacts," he told reporters.

He did not say where the ships were headed, but he added:

"The ship is carrying two chemicals used in chemical weapons. The first is thiodiglycol which is used in blister agents and the second is thionyl chloride which is used in blister and nerve agents."

China strongly protested Saturday against what it called U.S. bullying in preventing the vessel from reaching ports in the Middle East and China forbade exports of such chemicals in accordance with the convention.

Spokesman Cole said the vessel, the Yinhe, entered the region last week and was currently in the eastern approaches of the Strait of Hormuz. "It has been in Iranian territorial waters for the last several days... we are maintaining a

passive surveillance of the vessel," he added.

China's Xinhua news agency said the Yinhe left the northeast port of Dalian on July 15 for the Middle East. "The U.S. side chose to ignore China's statement and took arbitrary action that prevented the Chinese ship from reaching her scheduled ports."

Xinhua said the Chinese ship had not received permission to dock anywhere and that the safety of the ship and its crew were being subjected to grave risks.

China agreed in July to help Iran build a 300-megawatt nuclear power plant which both countries say will only serve peaceful purposes.

Last year China said it had agreed to build one plant in Iran, drawing condemnation from Washington which said it doubted Iran could be trusted to observe nuclear non-proliferation.

U.S. officials said Iran had bought equipment from China capable of enriching uranium used in nuclear weapons.

Iran has repeatedly denied Western reports that it is seeking nuclear weapons. It says it wants to expand use of nuclear technology for peaceful purposes.

Western intelligence officials said recently that Iran was trying to develop nuclear arms and might have a nuclear weapon within two or three years.

Hosokawa names diverse but reassuring cabinet

TOKYO (AFP) — Japanese Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa announced a cabinet Monday with a reformist bent but with some tested veteran conservatives at the helm to reassure business and the country's powerful bureaucracy.

Emperor Akihito sealed the end of 38 years of political domination by the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) when he swore in a 21-member cabinet drawn from all seven parties that make up the new ruling coalition.

Living up to his promise of "as much colour as possible," Mr. Hosokawa selected three women as ministers, a record for Social Democratic Party (SDP) Chairman Sadao Yamahana in a new slot as minister for political reform.

But the prime minister calmed anxieties in the business community by naming recent LDP defectors who set up the centre-right Shinseitō (Renewal Party) to key posts, giving the party five cabinet seats.

Leading them is Tsutomu Hata, a former LDP finance minister and a powerful figure in the coalition, who was named vice premier and foreign minister.

Mr. Hata, whose defection from the LDP hastened its fall, is the only member of the cabinet with experience as a minister and is expected to develop the foreign policies of the previous government while also improving relations within Asia by pressing for a full apology for Japan's role in World War II.

"We must admit the fact that we caused trouble in many countries, particularly Asian countries," he said.

Finance Minister Hirohisa Fujii and Minister for International Trade and Industry (MITI) Hiroshi Kumagai are both old conservatives and former bureaucrats well versed in the intricacies of their prominent ministries.

In Kumagai, a trade official at the ministry for 12 years, immediately focussed on the Uruguay round of world trade talks and while expressing empathy with U.S. irritation at Japan's trade surplus, told reporters he opposed managed trade to solve the problem.

MITI officials breathed a sigh of relief at the choice after publicly airing fears that a socialist might be appointed as their minister, while business leaders, some of whom had warned of instability, said they were reassured by the new line-up.

Socialists took six seats in the cabinet in what looks set to be a tough test for the former main opposition party, whose foreign, defence and economic policies, widely seen as unworkable, kept them in opposition until the LDP's corruption-tainted past caught up with it in the July 18 elections.

The Buddhist Komeitō (Clean Government Party) took four portfolios with its leader Koshiro Ishida securing the position of director-general of the Management and Coordination Agency, a government department with a wide range of tasks including collecting economic figures.

Komeitō, a once cozy ally of the LDP, also grabbed the posts of telecommunications minister, labour minister and the head of the environment agency, making

it the third largest party in the cabinet after the SDP and the Renewal Party.

Democratic Socialist Party leader Keigo Ouchi finds himself in coalition with the socialists he split from 33 years ago as health and welfare minister.

Manae Kudota, a socialist upper house member named to head the economic planning agency, also reassured bureaucrats that the broad outlines of policy would remain in place when she reiterated the agency's analysis that the Japanese economy had touched its lowest and was moving upwards.

Heading the Self Defence Agency is Mr. Shinseitō's Kenji Hokenishi, whose task will be formulating policies without straining a coalition still divided on defence despite the socialist's policy shift after years of maintaining that the armed forces violated the country's pacifist constitution.

Announcing the new line-up was LDP defector and founder of the Pioneer Party, Mayayoshi Takemura, appointed as cabinet secretary chief government spokesman.

Socialist Kozo Igarashi took the construction portfolio, according to a ministry linked under the LDP to several political scandals.

Mr. Hosokawa will outline the future course of his administration in a policy speech in parliament on Aug. 23, members of the parliament's steering committee said.

The current special parliament session, originally due to end Saturday will be extended until Aug. 28, they added.

CAIRO (R) — A senior Libyan official said Monday his country was willing to pay compensation to families whose relatives died in the bombings of Pan Am Flight 103 and a French jet in Niger, the Middle East News Agency (MENA) said.

Abraham Al Beshari, Libya's delegate to the Arab League, told Egypt's state-run news agency that Tripoli has made tangible steps towards satisfying U.N. demands in the cases.

The agency said Mr. Beshari "expressed Libya's willingness to pay compensation to the families of the French and American planes."

He did not elaborate and could not be reached at the embassy or his home for further comment.

Mr. Beshari made the remarks just days before the U.N. Security Council is to review sanctions imposed against Libya in April 1992 to force compliance in the cases.

The council ordered an air, arms and diplomatic embargo against Libya after it refused to hand over two Libyans suspects who have been indicted in the United States and Britain in the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland, in 1988.

French authorities want to question four others, including Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi's brother-in-law, in connection with the bombing of a French UTA airliner over Niger in 1989.

The U.N. Security Council has ordered Libya to hand the two men over for trial in the United States or Britain and to cut all links to "terrorist" groups.

A Libyan offer to turn over the suspects to a neutral third country has been rejected.

Libya in the past has offered to pay compensation if the two suspects, identified as intelligence agents Abdul Basset Ali Megrahi and Lamen Khalifa Fhimah, were tried and found guilty.

"It is new if they are not linking it to the proposal that payment only be made if they are found guilty," said Stephen Mitchell, a London-based lawyer who has represented the Libyan suspects.

Families of Pan Am victims have been pressing the U.S. government to try to increase the punitive measures against Libya to force it to turn over the men.

"Options have included an embargo on oil exports, which provide 90 per cent of Libya's foreign currency, or the freezing of Libyan assets abroad. Neither has drawn much international support."

Mr. Beshari was quoted by MENA as saying he does not expect the Security Council to toughen sanctions at its mid-August meeting.

He added that he expected the sanctions to be lifted by November or December because of Libyan measures "which prove its rejection of terrorism."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Policeman killed in Upper Egypt

ASSIUT (AFP) — Six alleged fundamentalists who tried to storm a building housing police officers in Upper Egypt Monday killed a guard there, police sources said. The Muslim extremists shot at windows as they approached the building in Qusya, 350 kilometres south of Cairo, they said. A guard opened fire on the assailants who shot and mortally wounded him, they added. The six men then fled across nearby fields and security services immediately launched search operations, they said. Qusya lies some 40 kilometres from the city of Assiut, cradle of Islamic fundamentalism in Upper Egypt.

Numeiri unhurt in incident

CAIRO (AP) — Bodyguards of former Sudanese President Jafar Numeiri, apparently fearing an attack, Monday chased a suspect car through Cairo streets and accidentally rammed another, injuring the driver, the Interior Ministry said. The Fiat car, which the bodyguards saw speeding near their motorcade, turned out to be driven by a doctor en route to his hospital, a ministry statement said. The driver of the vehicle that was hit suffered a minor head wound, it said. The bodyguards apparently feared Mr. Numeiri was targeted by Sudanese opposition. Mr. Numeiri has lived in exile in Egypt since he was ousted in a military coup in 1985. He was unhurt in the incident, police said. It was the latest in a series of incidents in which innocent people have been hurt when authorities or civilians reacted in fear of militant attacks. Most cases have involved bearded men mistaken for Muslim extremists, who have waged a campaign of violence since early 1992 against the government.

Power goes out again on Guam

AGANA, Guam (AP) — Efforts to restore power and water service to this U.S. territory shaken by one of the strongest earthquakes of the century suffered a setback Monday when a generator glitch triggered another island-wide blackout. The problem caused the West Pacific island's electrical system to shut down automatically Monday night, said Civil Defence Agency spokesman Carl Gumataotao. It was expected to remain off line until Tuesday morning. Cars tumbled from bridges and buildings were damaged by Sunday's tremor, which measured 8.1 to 8.2 on the Richter Scale. But unlike other great quakes, no deaths on life-threatening injuries were reported.

Hanoi offers rewards for MIA search

HANOI (AFP) — The Vietnamese government has intensified efforts to resolve the question of U.S. soldiers missing in action (MIA) by offering rewards for the first time to those who find any MIA remains. An official statement urged Vietnamese to intensify their search for the 2,252 U.S. soldiers listed as MIAs from the Vietnam War whose unresolved disappearance is the biggest obstacle to the normalisation of relations between Washington and Hanoi. "The Vietnam Office For Seeking Missing Personnel calls once more on local administrations and information to make a concerted effort to search, to provide U.S. soldier's remains that have come into their possession," the communiqué said. "If these remains are really those of MIA Americans, following identification, those who handed them in will receive a reasonable reward from the state for their help in the search," the statement said.

C. Americans back Taiwan's U.N. bid

TAIPEI (R) — Seven Central American countries have backed Taiwan's bid to rejoin the United Nations, from which the island was ousted by China in 1971, Taiwan's Foreign Ministry said Monday. U.N. representatives of Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama asked Secretary-General Boutros Ghali in a letter last week to form an ad hoc committee to study Taiwan's re-entry to the world body, the ministry said in a statement. The United Nations should "review the exceptional situation of... Taiwan in the international context based on the principle of universality and in accordance with the established pattern of parallel representation by divided countries in the United Nations," the ministry quoted the letter as saying.

Afghan minister to fly to Tajikistan

KABUL (AFP) — Afghan Foreign Minister Hedayat Amin Asala flies to Dushanbe Tuesday to encourage Tajik leaders to hold peace talks with the country's Islamic opposition and end the spiralling conflict along the Afghan-Tajik border. "Asala will hold talks with the Tajik foreign minister and other high-ranking officials, and with delegations from the Russian Federation and Uzbekistan," a Foreign Ministry spokesman said Monday. He said one of the main points to be put forward by the Afghan delegation will be that the Tajik government should recognise its rival parties and start negotiations with them.

COLUMN

Ronald Reagan's head spins on newsweekly cover

NEW YORK (R) — Time magazine turned former U.S. President Ronald Reagan on his head Sunday to illustrate what it said was the end of a "bankrupt period in American politics." The weekly news magazine printed an upside-down picture of Mr. Reagan on its cover to mark the passage of President Bill Clinton's deficit-cutting budget Friday. The cover shows a disembodied Reagan, still smiling, under a banner headline which reads "overturning the Reagan era." "For all its impurities and imperfections, the final budget deal brings to an end to a bankrupt period in American politics," the magazine said. Time said the narrow approval of Mr. Clinton's budget in Congress Thursday and Friday represented "the first real rejection of Reaganomics, a doctrine that survived for more than a decade in which taxes were lowered, spending raised, and Congress... blamed while everyone watched the deficit soar." It is the beginning, however modest, of a return to the economic orthodoxy of balanced budgets," the magazine added. Time said its unusual graphic represented the first time an inverted photograph had appeared on its cover in its 70-year history.

Quayle will not rule out bid for White House

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — The public hasn't heard the last from former Vice President Dan Quayle. Mr. Quayle said he plans to run an Indianapolis-based financial services company while considering whether to run for president. He also intends to write a newspaper column of his political and philosophical observations. "I'll continue to speak out and speak up," he said. Mr. Quayle's comments were published in Sunday's Indianapolis Star. Mr. Quayle has been on the speaking circuit and has a book scheduled for publication next spring about his four years as vice president. As in the past, Mr. Quayle said the presidency is the only political office he would be interested in pursuing. Mr. Quayle's new company, Circle Investors, is expected to begin business by buying insurance companies, particularly in Indiana and the midwest. "I've been talking about the free enterprise system and entrepreneurship for 16 years in public life, and now I'm going to go out and try a little of it," Mr. Quayle said.

DJ goes live to quit BBC

LONDON (R) — Dave Lee Travis, a disc jockey with BBC (British Broadcasting Corporation) radio for 26 years, announced his resignation during a live broadcast Sunday, in another sign of staff dissatisfaction with management reforms. Mr. Travis told listeners to his rock show that recent changes at the BBC were against his principles and he was therefore quitting Radio 1, the corporation's youth-orientated popular music channel. The BBC has five national radio channels. Matthew Bannister, a close ally of controversial BBC Director-General John Birt, was appointed controller of Radio 1 last month. Radio 1 faces increasing competition for audiences from commercial rock stations and media reports had said Mr. Travis's job was under threat. But a BBC spokesman told Reuters that Mr. Bannister had not yet made any decisions on the station's autumn line-up. Mr. Travis's announcement "has come as a surprise to us and we are sorry to see him go," the spokesman said by telephone. Travis, who was hired from offshore pirate station Radio Caroline in 1967, has presented his weekend show since 1980 and was the second longest serving disc jockey at Radio 1.

Food poisoning takes wind out of band

LISBON (AP) — Crowds at the annual festival of S. Roque de Cortes were enjoying a routine holiday parade Sunday when members of a marching band began collapsing by two's and three's, in mid-step, stricken with food poisoning. Forty-nine of 59 members of Oporto's Fanfara Do Rio Tinto were treated and held for observation at the district hospital of Viana De Castelo, 390 kilometres north of Lisbon, the Portuguese News Agency (LUSA) reported. The source of the poisoning was not immediately identified, pending results of laboratory tests, LUSA reported. The group had dined together at a local restaurant before marching in the festival in the small town of Vila Nova De Cerveira.